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# NECC Observer

No. Essex Community College, Haverhill & Lawrence, Mass.

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## 10 Sports

Hoop teams hope to play well this season



## 7 News

Latin American club gets off to a great start

# Students booted from programs

## ◆ Background checks may wreak havoc on human service programs

By GEORGE WARD  
Features Editor

Several students who failed to meet the requirements of the Criminal Offender Record Information check have been forced to withdraw from certain human services practicums.

Registered letters from the college were sent to students the week of Oct. 25, advising them they have criminal offenses which required their immediate removal from their clinical affiliations.

The CORI background check was mandated in 1996 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, but has only been implemented by the college this semester.

In previous years, the practicum agency did the CORI check for all employees, but the state directive now requires all colleges to assume this responsibility before placing students in the clinical program.

Paul Bevilacqua, vice-president of academic

affairs, said the college has been contemplating the best procedure to implement the directive since last year.

Bevilacqua and Stephen Sullivan, chair of CORI review committee who signed the letters mailed to students, said a backlog of information at the Criminal History Systems Board caused the delay in sending the letters.

In addition, several college CORI committee members have just recently been certified to read the results of the checks.

The enforcement of the CORI checks could jeopardize some human service programs, according to Mary DiGiovanni, program head.

"NECC has always supported disadvantaged students and students at risk by having a philosophy of acceptance to the college program," said DiGiovanni in a written statement.

"We need to continue this policy and not harm students by intrusion into their past life and making judgments on their criminal history."

In a 1996 state directive, CORI mandated that students entering or wishing to enter any program involving a one-on-one patient relationship, be subjected to the check. The information obtained from the CORI

See CORI page 5

## Cutting class: does it matter?

## ◆ Sunny days, carefree attitudes keep some students from classrooms

By MARK BEHAN  
Staff Reporter

Most days Rob Bergeron drives to NECC, parks his car in the parking lot and attends class. On other days he follows the above procedure, but never leaves his car.

"It's a spontaneous decision," the 20-year-old criminal justice major said. "Some days I'll feel like going (to class), and then I won't. Instead of going to class, I'll sit and listen to Manowar (heavy metal band)."

Unlike high school, where homeroom teachers take attendance each morning

and unit directors keep tabs on tardy or absent students, college students have the choice: to attend or not to attend class.

"I've found that I can skip class and not get in trouble for it," Bergeron said, adding that he's doing well in his courses this semester.

Asked if paying for college is an incentive to attend class, Bergeron said, "In the back of my mind, I know I am paying for college, but there are some days I just don't feel like going."

Recently, on a splendid Indian summer Friday morning, 13 out of 26 enrolled students in Francis Champoux's Meteorology class were in attendance.

"You'll only see crowds on test days," Champoux said. "It's like this in most classes. It doesn't matter which course it is."

In his 32 years of teaching at NECC,

See STUDENTS page 5



Carl Russo photo  
WINNERS AGAIN: Observer staffers and advisers are all smiles after returning home from winning their ninth Pacemaker Award and a fifth place Best of Show award at the College Media Convention in Atlanta, Oct. 30.

## Paper wins Pacemaker

## ◆ Observer continues winning legacy with ninth award

By GEORGE WARD  
Features Editor

For the ninth time in 10 years, the NECC Observer has won one of the most prestigious awards in college journalism.

At the conclusion of the Associated Collegiate Press Convention in Atlanta Oct. 30, the Observer was one of five colleges to win the ACP Pacemaker. The Observer also picked up a fifth place award in the convention's Best of Show competition.

The Pacemaker is given to college papers that have made outstanding strides in journalism or set a standard. The Best of Show citation was presented by the Atlanta Journal Constitution for the best edition of the top five papers in the two-year tabloid category.

The award convocation honored the best stories, web sites, advisers and publications from the previous academic

year. The Pacemaker announcements were the final award of the afternoon. The Observer staffers did not have to hold their breath for long. The paper was the second recipient of the award to be announced in the two-year division.

Arts editor Carley Thornell accepted the award on behalf of the staff.

"I was a member of both the fall and spring staffs, so I worked on the papers that earned us the Pacemaker. A lot of people around town have congratulated me on winning the award and my math class even applauded for me. That's pretty cool," Thornell said.

"Students work to produce a clean, well-edited paper which strives to cover stories of importance to the Northern Essex College Community," said adviser Joseph T. LeBlanc. "The paper has been unafraid to cover hard-hitting stories. I'm as proud of this staff's accomplishments as any other's. I hope they carry on a tradition of excellence. I'm seeing signs of hope for next year already."

"It's always a thrill and an honor to be awarded the Pacemaker. But we have learned that we can never rest on our laurels. We are always striving to keep

See NEWSPAPER page 6

# Hasty decision

◆ Quick vote by faculty association leaves the Observer out in the cold

The recent vote by the NECC Faculty Association to keep the college press out of future meetings is surprising, leaving us with a sense of bewilderment and disappointment.

The Observer has made every effort to present the plight of the faculty association on every major issue for more than 20 years.

It has not only covered meetings and reported the facts as they unfolded, but has taken a stand, through staff editorials, in support of the many faculty members and professional staff who have traditionally been overworked and underpaid.

It has kept the entire college community and the neighboring communities at large up-to-date on the innumerable delays of the classification study and the frustrations of the members during contract negotiations.

Its coverage has brought the struggles of faculty members to the attention of students who might not otherwise have been aware of such facts, and it helped educate them on confusing and burdensome issues facing their instructors.

Unfortunately, every bit of

## EDITORIAL

news coverage cannot be a glowing account of harmony and peace in the world of unions and bureaucracies.

Such reports would diminish the value and integrity of reported news as biased and fantastic to say the least.

The Observer staff strives to adhere to journalism standards in accurate, fair and well-balanced reporting. It takes great care in avoiding unnecessary or flagrant commentary in its coverage.

The concerns of faculty members who do not want extraordinary or sensitive issues to appear in newsprint are legitimate and within their legal rights. Those rights are protected through private executive sessions, in much the same manner that local governments use.

However, it should be remembered that while the association is a private organization, it serves a public body and its concerns and actions can greatly affect a large student population.

It is disheartening to learn that the fate of a 20-year mutually beneficial relationship was decided in what appears to have been a sudden, haphazard vote where members were seemingly unsure, unclear and unaware of exactly what the issues were.



## ROAMING REPORTER

# How can NECC work better for you?



Jason Wilkins, graphic design  
"More sport clubs like lacrosse. And a wider field of computer drawing classes."



Carmen Maldonado, liberal arts  
"To have liberal arts classes from 4-7 p.m."

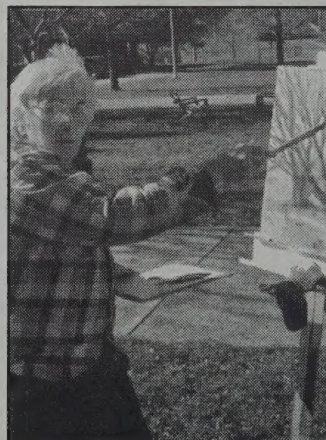


Fausto Moscat, liberal arts  
"They don't take into account the professors' evaluations. I think they only do it because it's their duty."

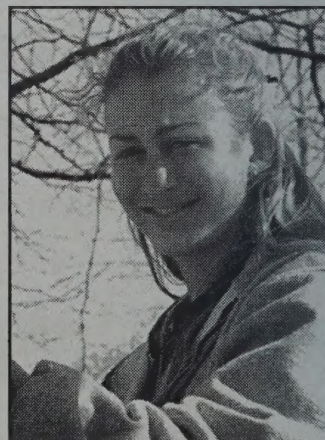
## David Cousins photos



Miguel Nivar, liberal arts  
"If they hired more minority teachers, and they would let students know when they are having faculty meetings."



Elsie Santos, liberal arts  
"They need improvements of the facilities in the art department. There is no proper place to clean up after class."



Erin Descoeaux, liberal arts  
"We need larger classrooms, because the classes are too small. Also we need more supplies."

## NECC OBSERVER

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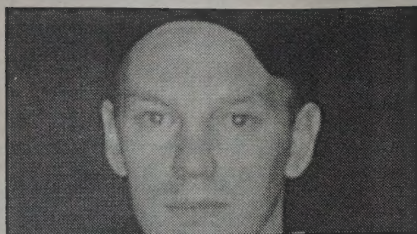
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# Speaking the truth about politics in 2000



ROBERT ARCHER

## ◆ Cutting through the nonsense to find the real issues in the next election

**W**e, the American public, do not know what to do with something once we get it. Remember the part in the movie "A Few Good Men" where Jack Nicholson's character Col. Nathan R. Jessep stands up and yells "Truth! You can't handle the truth?"

That, my friends, is the problem we face today.

We finally get a person into public office who speaks his mind, and we crucify the man.

The person who sparked the debate about truth is Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura. In the November issue of Playboy, Ventura made a number of controversial comments about religion, prostitution, drugs and flag burning.

For many months, he had been riding a wave of popularity, and he quickly saw it disappear because of what he said. Now he is trying to distance himself from that interview, and recover some of that lost popularity.

It is too bad that had to happen. The people of Minnesota elected a person into office partly because he was blunt and spoke his mind.

In the interview, Ventura spoke freely. He did not have an adviser telling him what to say or what not to say. For example, do you think one of his handlers would have allowed him to say that "organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers?"

One does not have to agree with every-

thing he says, but the shocking thing for many people is that it is not political double talk. Maybe the problem is that Americans are conditioned to so much hot air coming out of the mouths of politicians that they cannot recognize honest opinions when they hear them.

The issue of honesty in politics has nothing to do with being a Democrat or a Republican, or in Ventura's case, being a member of the Reform Party.

Today, Americans do not trust people in power. Most people would say it is because those in power are not honest. It would be hard to argue against that point; our president is proof of that. We do not have to revisit the Monica Lewinsky scandal to remind everyone of how maddening it can be to catch a politician trying to obstruct the flow of information to the American public even if everyone knows the case the President did have oral sex with Lewinsky.

The troubling thing was the negative backlash that Ventura received for his comments. The remarks he made then resulted in lower public opinion ratings. You have to wonder how many "get a lifer's" there are out there. These politically correct masses are overly sensitive about even the smallest statement or action.

The "get a lifer's" could be blamed for some of the standard political double talk that is common place in politics today. The attitude they breed with their constant complaints of this and that are offensive and have every person in the public eye on guard. No one wants to be the one to offend a certain segment of the public. All this could add up to bad public approval ratings, and no politician wants that because bad approval ratings could end a career or make you a lame duck in public office.

To be fair to these thin-skinned groups, they cannot be blamed completely for the river of deceit that runs from most offices of public officials. The American public as a whole must share the blame together. We should never have allowed it to get to this point to begin with.

Education is the key to fighting this war of honesty in American politics. We have to know what the real issues are. Knowledge is power, and once we know what the issues are, the politicians cannot double talk us. If



they do, it will only hurt their credibility.

Then, if people do not like what they are hearing they can take the opportunity to exercise their right as an American and let their voices be heard in the form of voting. If you think someone is lying to you, don't vote for that person.

But the people can be heard only if we vote. If you vote you will be heard. If you don't, shut up, don't complain, you blew your chance to be heard.

As the year 2000 approaches, and the election process for a new president begins, the public relations machines of the vari-

ous candidates will get cranked up. We will hear many things that we might have to question.

We have to decide what is fact and what is fiction. The problem we now face is do we want to hear the things that appease our lack of desire for the real issues, or do we want the truth. These are the things the American public has to ask itself.

So put on your hip boots and grab a shovel as the lies could pile up. Get ready to wade through the political hogwash. The truth is out there, and now all we have to do is find it.

## Professor thanks friends for support

To the editor:

I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone at Northern Essex for the outpouring of sympathetic response to the death of my son Frank in late August. To those who attended the funeral or burial, and to and those who sent cards, letters, flowers, fruit and food and who greeted me with kind words when school opened, and who contributed to the Memorial Scholar-

### LETTER

ship Fund. THANK YOU!

I wish I could thank each of you individually, but I see that would be a long-term project. It's a wonderful problem to be part of a so overwhelmingly supportive community.

Sincerely, Priscilla B. Bellairs

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# ESL offers students way up the ladder

◆ Program helps people acquire the language skills that helps them succeed

By MARK PALERMO  
Guest Contributor

I began teaching 22 years ago when I was a younger man in the process of traveling around Europe. At one point, I found myself in Madrid with little money.

An American I met suggested I seek a job teaching English. The first place I applied, a prestigious institute, hired me on the spot as the result of a strange occurrence.

A teacher had just been fired earlier that day for coming to the institute roaring drunk.

He had been a very popular teacher, and when I replaced him in his classes, the students resented me very much, even though I had nothing to do with him getting fired. But I chalked it up to experience. And I learned a lot. Anyway, I've been teaching English ever since.

I grew up in a tenement in Lawrence and I attended Northern Essex, graduating in 1970 with a degree in liberal arts. I obviously didn't know what I wanted to do. But I tell students there's nothing wrong with that.

Millions of young people are in that same boat today. But that's where liberal arts comes in. A lot of people will fall into their life's work the same way I did.

I began working for Northern Essex 14 years ago. I was living on a mountain top cabin in Vermont when I got called for an interview. The school was beginning to hire ESL teachers in response to the riots that took place in Lawrence during the summer of 1985.

Community leaders became convinced that minorities, in particular Hispanics, were voiceless, politically powerless, and systematically locked out of educational and employment opportunities.

Frustration was growing, and so LEEP, or the Lawrence Educational Employment Project was formed as an affiliation of Northern Essex. Later LEEP was to be absorbed by Northern Essex.

From the start, I found that I enjoyed working with immigrants. They were cheerful, loyal, and above all, respectful. That's important. (No sane person goes into teaching for the money). And they had heart, too.

For instance, one guy drove a cab all night in Lawrence.

He would come in at 8 a.m. to attend my classes. He often had not slept, changed or

## GUEST COLUMN

eaten before arriving on time every day. But he was eager to learn. His motivation reminded me of how Booker T. Washington walked 500 miles in his bare feet through the mountains for a chance to attend college classes in exchange for his labor as a janitor.

I love to be around people who are eager to learn. It gives me a lift. On days that I am blue, or tired, or I haven't slept well, I get inspiration from my students.

There are numerous community programs in the area that teach immigrants English. The International Institute, for example, has been doing a good job of it in Lawrence for over a 100 years. Other community agencies offer classes in vocational English as part of job training programs.

Even church groups offer beginners' classes to help people get started. But nobody else offers what Northern Essex does; it prepares ESL students for the demands of college and professional life.

There are 500 ESL students at NECC. They face obstacles to a smooth two-year passage through NECC. ESL at Northern Essex is demanding as well it should be if we are to prepare students for the real world.

There are four basic levels of grammar and reading that must be mastered. After that come even more advanced academic levels that build a professional vocabulary and enhance writing skills. These are taken concurrently with traditional courses. But even more than the demands of learning grammar and developing a professional-level vocabulary is the question of developing cultural literacy.

Cultural literacy refers to how much of the nuances, cultural assumptions and thinking patterns a person is able to absorb from a given culture.

For instance, many years ago a Cambodian kid passed out of our program. One day he found himself in a traditional classroom where the teacher was lecturing about the "Roaring '20s." The kid raised his hand and asked the teacher what the Roaring '20s were.

The teacher apparently didn't want to take class time to explain it to him, because he felt it was a basic assumption that everybody should know before they enter a history or economics class. The kid did everything he was supposed to do. You can't blame him.

The teacher had a point, too. He can't stop the class and draw a context around every basic tenet and construct of Ameri-



can society. The dictionary was of no help either. If the kid looked the term up in the dictionary he came up with roaring (a loud sound) and twenty.

Welcome to the question of cultural literacy. It is still another hurdle that the ESL student faces, and unlike grammar and literacy skills, it can't be easily taught, but rather absorbed with time.

One thing I have begun to realize is that I have taught so many people how to speak English that I run into them everywhere I go.

Food stores, malls, bars, restaurants. I even met one of my ex-students at JFK in New York City this summer when I was waiting for a flight.

It gives me a feeling of satisfaction when I see them prospering and enjoying life because I remember how hard they had to work to find a door out of the darkness.

That sounds melodramatic, I know. But think how you would feel if you have to leave your country and family and friends and start out in another country with nothing, unable to even speak and understand people.

I had a taste of that myself when I was on the road years ago. And I have never forgotten it.

Sometimes students get frustrated at the amount of ESL they have to take in order to be allowed to take traditional classes. But the amount of time they spend in ESL depends primarily on their educational level when they arrive here.

A couple of years ago, I was interviewing an incoming student, a young Hispanic woman.

In reviewing her assessment test, I discovered that she had a third grade reading level. She asked me how long she would have to be in ESL and developmental courses. I felt bad, but I had to be straight with her. I asked her, "Do you want me to tell you the

truth, or would you like for me to make you feel good?" She said she wanted the truth, and I told her it would take her three years of hard work to get up to a tenth grade reading level, maybe more.

On the other hand, many other incoming students test high enough on their ESL assessment test that they bypass the entire ESL program completely going directly into a degree program. There is nothing to stop them.

Others are in ESL for one or two semesters and then out. Some ESL students, mostly the newer ones, don't fully understand that a college must maintain high standards or risk losing its accreditation.

Nor can standards be arbitrary or ambiguous. The ESL program, for example, is based upon TESOL (Teachers of English as a Second Language) proficiency standards. TESOL is the internationally recognized organization that sets clear, objective standards for virtually all foreign students studying in colleges and universities in the United States and Canada.

The success stories I have seen here are too numerous to list. I ran into a Hispanic woman last year who was in my class in 1986. At the time, she was on welfare, isolated and depressed. Now she's a psychologist making more money than I do (that's not hard), and she is enrolled in a Ph.D. program.

She now owns her own home. And she's paying taxes instead of collecting a welfare check. Sometimes people ask me if I would be an ESL teacher if I could choose the same profession again. Sure, I would tell them.

Teaching has rewards. But it's not for everyone. But I know that having a job that you enjoy is one of the fundamentals of a contented, satisfied life.

Editor's note:  
Mark Palermo is an ESL professor.

## Student says CORI policy is flawed

I am a student at Northern Essex Community College enrolled in the Alcohol/Drug Abuse Certificate Program. I am also in recovery.

Recently, I received a certified letter from the college stating that because of the findings on a CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) I would be ineligible to participate in my program's clinical affiliation, thus be unable to complete my internship. My tentative graduation date is May 2000.

I am not a convicted felon and in two of the three former charges, one was continued without a finding, the other was dismissed, and finally the third was a misdemeanor.

## LETTER

Convicted felons in prison who commit such heinous crimes as rape, murder, kidnapping, armed robbery and assault and battery are allowed access to continue their education at taxpayer expense. Why is it that someone who works at a professional full-time job, and pursues continuing education can be denied their constitutional right to better themselves?

I am currently employed by a human services agency as a residential counselor/medication officer for the program structured under the guidelines of the department of mental/public health.

I also hold a three-year certificate to administer medications to the clients who reside at the program. I also, when needed, facilitate a men's substance abuse group at an associated day program.

It is obvious that this agency doesn't feel that the safety of their clients is threatened. Prior to being employed, I passed a mandatory CORI issued by the agency.

The practicum agencies are not in agreement with the CORI review committee's decision. They view the student as an integral part of the services offered to their clients. They also view the interns as prospective employees.

There must be changes made in the system or the human services field will have no one to care for those less fortunate.

Why doesn't the college administer drug

testing and CORI's prior to being accepted in to the program, and not when most students are near completion of their dreams and goals?

In essence, I'm being denied the right to my education because of my past. Aren't we allowed a mistake in life? Why are the agencies allowed leniency in hiring and the CORI review committee lowers the hammer? In order for the CORI review committee to appear non-biased one member of the board should be in recovery.

In closing, there are legal alternatives to explore in order for me to continue passing and completing my educational endeavors. It is my opinion that my constitutional and civil rights to an education are being violated.

Kevin S. Biello, Amesbury

# CORI requirements cause stir with students

◆ continued from page 1

study is procured by the Criminal History Systems Board. This system connects 276 local police departments along with many federal criminal history data banks.

The CORI can come back clean, or it can reveal offenses that are classified in two categories.

There are mandatory offenses, consisting of major felonies including murder, rape, armed robbery and molestation charges, in which discretion is removed from the CORI committee's hands, and the student is automatically dismissed from their placement.

Discretionary offenses on the other hand, consist of misdemeanor charges and other minor infractions. These charges may include drug related offenses and are reviewed by the school's CORI committee. The committee then offers the student an opportunity to explain the charges.

Following this hearing, the committee makes the decision on the student's placement.

"This form does not exclude students from being admitted to the college," said Sullivan. "It just prevents them from doing the in-the-field placement. I urge any student with a mandatory offense who hasn't done so already, to call

me."

Like any program, there are some flaws in the CORI system. New Hampshire students must fill out the form, but unless the offense occurred in Massachusetts, the report will return clean.

There are other departments of the college directly involved in the process.

The office of the registrar is also required to make certain provisions to adhere to the directive.

"The only people that can see these reports are certified employees," said registrar Kevin Stanley. "Not only is it a tough thing to go through, it costs us a lot in manpower. We have had to buy special storage systems for these files, and will have to spend time filing the information and formatting it to send our findings back to the state."

Counsel for the State's community colleges, Kenneth A. Tashji warned that failure to perform a CORI check on a student serving in a human services program may be susceptible to legal action if a person is injured by the student's criminal conduct during placement.

Students are upset about the process.

"Why is it I am allowed to start

the program, and just as I am about to finish my degree, I am told I can't because of offenses in my past I was never convicted of," drug abuse counselor student Kevin Biello said.

"Why don't they 'CORI' us before we start the program, instead of us going this far and being told at the very end we can't finish."

Why is it that I can be 'CORIed' by my job, and they don't have a problem with it, but I can be 'CORIed' by the school, and they remove me from my practicum? I have been working in the field for 20 years and all of a sudden, I am not going to be able finish my degree," Biello said.

Some students feel they are being put out into the cold and are seeking legal advice.

The letter sent by the college does offer some alternatives.

"While your CORI precludes you from pursuing an associate's degree or certificate in Human Services, there are other educational and career opportunities available to you," the letter states. It goes on to suggest the student contact the Career Development Center.

"Our goal is to give students second and third chances," said President David Hartleb. "This is not being happily done."



File photo

**GEORGIA HOOPLAH:** The NECC Observer staff celebrates at the College Media Convention in Atlanta last week: Carley Thornell, George Ward and Danny Goodwin, left, and Nathan Scott, Breed Whitmore and Joseph T. LeBlanc, right. See story, page one.

## Faculty Association bars college press from meetings

### ◆ Majority votes Observer out, but some say issues were ambiguous

By CAMILLE DUCEY  
Editor

After more than 20 years covering faculty association union meetings, the NECC Observer has been banned from personally covering them again in a 30-19 vote at its October meeting.

In a motion made by George Medelinskas, chairman, depart-

ment of computer and information science, the group agreed to bar the college press, breaking a long-standing tradition of open invitation to cover association meetings.

Joseph T. LeBlanc, association president, Observer adviser, and professor of English, said he told the group it was making a mistake.

LeBlanc said Medelinskas asked him to put the item on the agenda, stating the meetings were private and the press should not be covering them.

"We are a private entity. We have the right to have private meetings, just like a family. Discussions should not be reported in the press," Medelinskas said.

LeBlanc said it is legal to close the meetings from press coverage. Student Press Law Center attorney Mike Heistead confirmed the group's right to private meetings.

Medelinskas was asked if he found the press coverage negative.

"To me as a union member, it does not seem positive to see the Observer in Newburyport where it can be picked up by union leaders and members of the Board of Higher Education, reporting that the union is divided."

"People say things that are sensitive. As a private organization that does business with the state and discusses job actions, it is important that we have a place to vent and do not want it to go out to the press," Medelinskas said.

Medelinskas said he comes from a union that did not have open meetings and was surprised to find himself quoted in the college press.

Jim Bradley, social sciences professor, disagrees with Medelinskas and voted against the motion to ban the press.

"Mr. Medelinskas' rationale is flawed. There is no need to be secretive. But that is his perception. People have a right to their perception but if, in fact there is an issue that is so sensitive, we have the right to go into executive session," Bradley said.

"The newspaper has been an advocate of faculty and professional staff in the past. My own take on it is that it is a misunderstanding as to exactly what was being voted."

"It was hurried. I don't think there was adequate discussion as to exactly what was being voted. I do think the issue needs to be brought to the members again for reconsideration," Bradley said.

Frank Leary, NECCFA vice president, said he thinks the motion was unfortunate and shortsighted.

"The union has always had a good relationship with the Observer. I don't think that everyone understood what the vote was about. It was brought up relatively quickly and not completely thought out," he said.

Eleven faculty members were asked to comment on the motion during the week of Nov. 1.

Four declined, and one asked to remain anonymous because her vote was erroneously tallied when she raised her hand to ask a question.

Stephen Proietti, associate professor of math, said he abstained from voting because he didn't have enough time to contemplate the issue.

"I don't normally do that. It was an emotional vote. We should be able to speak our mind. If we needed to say things privately, we

could go into executive session. I think we should have had a closed ballot," he said.

Ginger Hurajt, English professor, voted to keep the press in.

"It was clear that we had a vehicle for closed session. But I don't think there was enough discussion. I think it was very confusing and I wasn't sure they were counting," she said.

Gail Stuart, reference librarian, said she voted against the motion to bar the press because of the ability to go into executive session.

Leary said some friendly amendments were proposed and accepted, including providing press releases from the union, but it was unclear when and by whom the press releases would be issued.

LeBlanc said the motion also allows the press to cover union meetings at certain times by special vote with special permission. The exact details of that proposal were also unclear.

The newspaper has traditionally reported on all faculty association matters over the years, including the union's decision to initiate a job action and working to rule during contract negotiations; a no-confidence vote against former president John Dimitry; budget cuts; increased workloads; gender equity suits; the presidential search committee; and most recently, the saga of the classification study.

Leary said the college press has always worked in the union's best interests.

"The vote really surprised me. I think they voted on impulse," Leary said.

### OVERNIGHT JUVENILE WORKER

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# Some students skip class, others don't

◆ continued from page 1

Champoux feels the attendance rate is getting worse, but he doesn't think the trend is inherently bad.

"It's a very normal part of the growing and learning process," Champoux said. "Some students don't have the initiative yet."

Champoux said the low turnout for classes is frequently discussed among his peers. "What can you do to motivate them? You make the material in class logical and interesting. Most students who attend class and who do the work will receive A's and B's. But you can't force the material on them. They are adults," he said.

Champoux feels that once students get out in the workforce and realize they need a degree, their attitudes toward school often change. He cites NECC students attending night school, who, for the most part, work during the day.

"Attendance is higher, more people in class are participating, and grades are better," Champoux said. "These students are more motivated and their heads are in it."

Sarah Vincent, 20, said she rarely misses class. "I want to do well, and keep up with the work," said Vincent, who received the first Presidential Scholarship last semester and recently was awarded the Leadership Program Scholarship.

Vincent, a criminal justice major, said she had perfect attendance in high school. "I was pushed to go to school. Going to class pays off," she said.

Brian Hellman, 19, said he attends all his classes. "I want to do well and I want a

degree," he said. "Why don't students attend class? 'They're lazy,' he said.

After graduating from Methuen High School, Rob Rose, 21, attended Middlesex Community College. He said he missed a lot of classes and eventually stopped going.

Today, the general studies major knows the importance of attending his classes. Asked to compare the attendance policies from high school to college, Rose answered, "It's much more disciplined in high school. In college, you are paying, they don't care if you miss."

For the past two semesters, Barbara Stachniewicz, associate professor of English, has taught English Composition I at 7 a.m. She said attendance for the early morning class has been good.

Stachniewicz has an attendance policy for her classes, which she enforces.

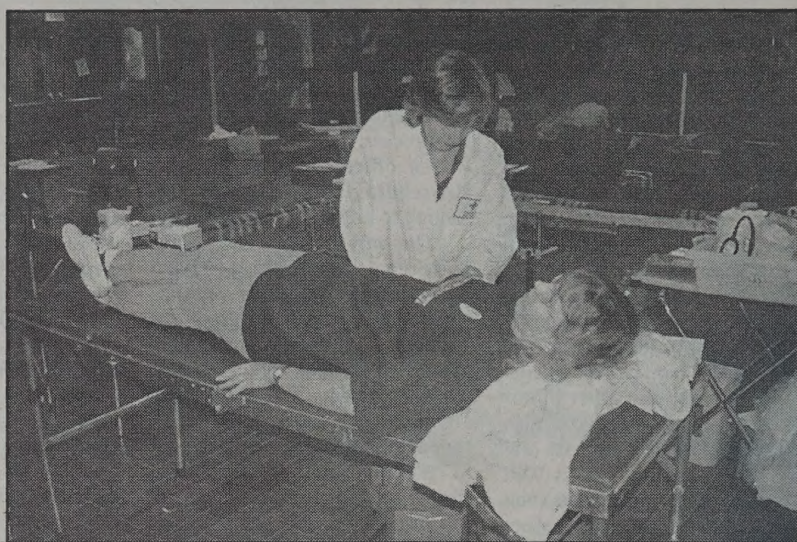
"I reserve the right to drop a student after three hours of absence," she said. "I believe that attendance is essential in workshop or discussion classes; the only way to be fair to those who do come to class is to penalize those who do not come."

She said she realizes there are legitimate reasons for absence and is sensitive to those.

Stachniewicz asked her 7 a.m. class questions concerning attendance policies in their different classes and if or when students were likely to miss class.

Most professors, students told her, include an attendance policy and they assume the policy will be enforced.

"Most of the students feel that they really do need to attend class in order to



David Cousins photo  
**GIFT OF LIFE:** Student Deb Hamel gives a pint of blood in a drive held in the student center recently.

succeed in that class, but a few have examples of classes in which they could periodically skip and still succeed," she said.

She found that most students were unlikely to skip a whole day of school, but would skip a particular class. Stachniewicz said that her early-rising students were less likely to skip an early morning class than a late one.

"The most dangerous combination seems to be an afternoon class that they consider boring," she said. "A sunny afternoon could

spark an exodus."

Ryan Kidney, 20, a graphic design major, takes four classes. He said he usually attends every class. "If you miss class, you'll be that much farther behind," Kidney said. "Plus, you have to make it up anyway."

Kidney feels that since he is paying for his education, he should make the most of it. Professor Champoux adds, "College isn't just about subject matter. It's about developing work habits and attitudes for the real world."

## Faculty views on minority hiring vary

◆ *Spending money on advertising doesn't seem to attract candidates*

BY CHRISTINA LEONARD  
Staff reporter

Just like a diamond in the rough, it's hard to find a precious commodity that can be turned into worthwhile investment. At NECC, that precious commodity is minority faculty.

"We are competing for a rare resource in trying to hire minorities at NECC," said Jim Bradley, professor of psychology.

The college attempted to fix this problem by spending over \$100,000 on advertising in *The Boston Globe*, *The Eagle-Tribune*, and a local magazine called *Rumbo*, a

Lawrence Latino-focused weekly magazine.

This was a moderate attempt at making the faculty reflect the community they serve: the students. Forty percent of the students at the Lawrence campus are minorities, and yet there isn't even close to 40 percent of minority professors.

The response to the advertising was disappointing in terms of minorities applying to the college.

"We are all part of the problem, if we are not part of the solution," Bradley said. "It is not the number one priority at NECC to make diversity an issue in the faculty."

He suggested that personally the students and faculty could take a role in order to speak out on this topic in spite of the difficulty it takes to make a change.

Another reason why so few minorities have applied to the college is because NECC requires faculty to hold a master's degree.

Kathy Rodger, Lawrence campus dean, who has worked at NECC for 15 years, said, "One of the main reasons there is a lack of minorities as part of faculty is due to competition from private industries offering higher paying positions."

The minorities that do hold faculty positions at the Lawrence campus frequently work on a part-time basis with the exception of one full-timer, Eduardo Ruiz.

Some faculty members travel between the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses to divide their teaching and work time. Ruiz works in the behavioral science department. John Mendoza teaches a language noncredit course and also does a credit course on conversational Spanish. William Eusebio runs the audiovisual department at the Lawrence campus.

As the Lawrence campus expands its new building a block away from the main one, Kathy Rodger said, "After the expansion there might be a need to compromise on credentials and experience of the pos-

sible minority hires in the future."

Jorge Santiago, assistant dean for pre-college and urban programs felt strongly that "Creating a welcoming climate on campus for minority faculty is the first step in attracting future minorities to apply."

Strong support from President David Hartleb and the rest of the administration has been behind progress seen so far on this issue, Santiago said.

Diversity is the key that NECC has built its foundation on, but it's not reflected much in the faculty just yet.

## Newspaper wins Pacemaker

◆ continued from page 1

our standards high to produce a newspaper with good, varied content," editor Camille Ducey said.

"It is great to continue the tradition set by earlier staffs in winning the Pacemaker Award," said Bob Archer, opinion editor.

"It is great to see the Observer continue the tradition of excellence in their work," Tom Rolnicki, executive director of the ACP, said.

Along with the Observer, four other publications won two-year Pacemakers: *The Advocate* from Contra Costa College in San Pablo, Calif.; *The Collegian* from Tarrant County Junior College in Hurst,

Texas; *El Don*, Santa Ana College in Santa Ana, Calif.; and *The Times*, Milwaukee Area Technical College in Milwaukee, Wisc.

Papers named Pacemaker finalists, but not making the last cut were the *Valencia Source*, Valencia, Fla.; the *Sentinel*, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; the *Hawkeye*, Tampa, Fla.; the *Ranger*, San Antonio, Texas; and the *Advocate*, Santa Ana, Calif.

NECC president David Hartleb praised the staff's efforts. "It is terrific to see the Observer continue the tradition of quality and excellence it has shown for years. Congratulations to the entire staff," he said.

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# Latin American club off to strong start

## ◆ Party draws big crowd to Fitness Center

By SUSAN KELLEY  
Staff Reporter

Dance the Salsa, Merengue, and Bachata. Enjoy Spanish cuisine, and raffle prizes. Students learned about Latin American culture at NeLac's (Northern Essex Latin American Club) kick-off party.

The party was last week in the Haverhill campus fitness center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.. It was organized by Jose Perez, Wendy Luzon, GG Martinez, and Raphael Abela, all NECC students who started the club a month ago.

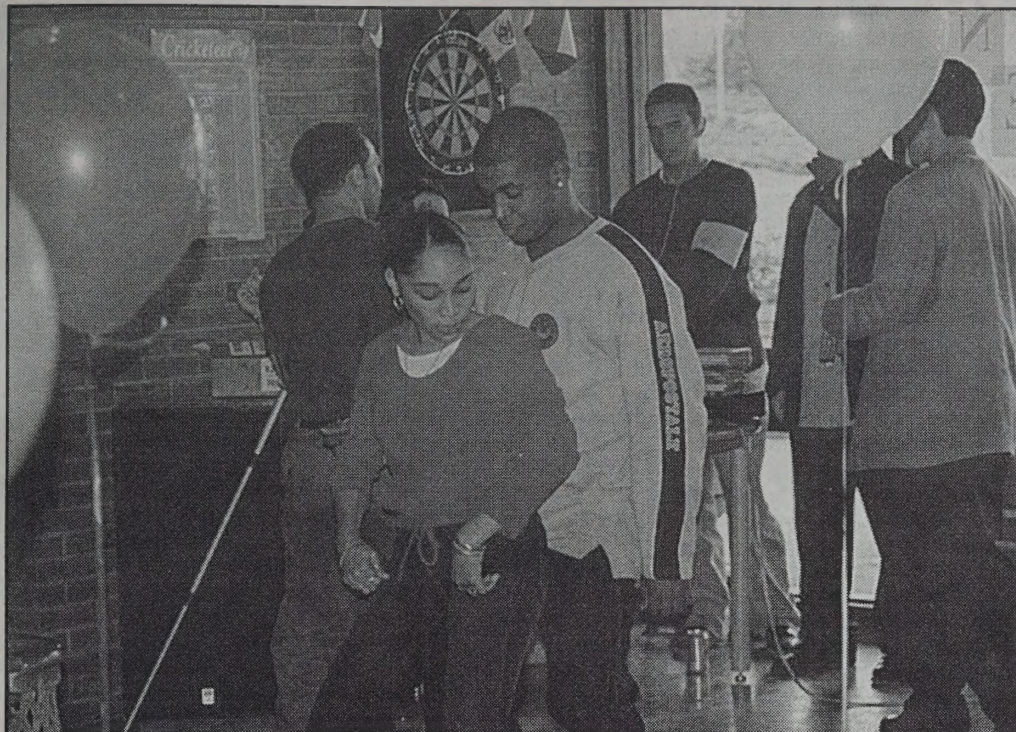
"The point behind starting the club is to bring Latino people together and share our culture with others," Perez said.

NeLac has met twice and plans to meet weekly. They have been invited to support the Latino Arts Month by fundraising.

NeLac has about 50 members from both campuses, with hope and expectations to grow.

"It's our big opening," Perez said. "Hopefully it will make people aware of us, and attract them to join."

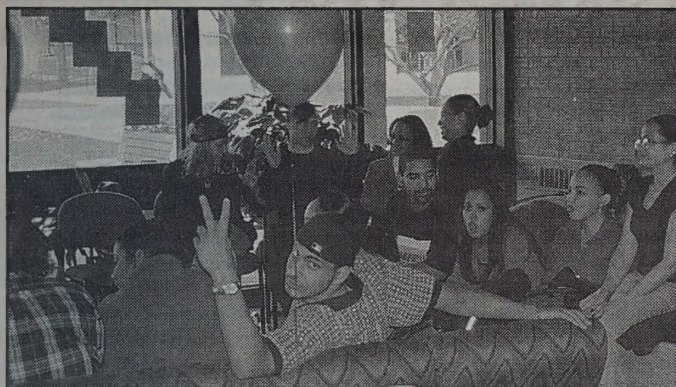
Spanish food was sold to raise funds for the club treasury. Spanish music accompanied dancing, and raffle prizes included CDs, gift certificates to hair salons, and



passes to Spanish nightclubs.

Local businesses Me Salon, Gonzales Market, Pepsi Cola, Valdez Photo, Punta Final Nightclub, Jubele, Cidi Mania, Estilo Barber Shop, and Nueval Mager Salon sponsored this event.

David Cousins photos  
**IT'S PARTY TIME:** Students crowd the Fitness Center last week for the first meeting of the NECC Latin American Club



# Campus shuttle serves individual students

## ◆ New program runs several times from both campuses

By DEBORAH CHAMBERS  
Staff Reporter

NECC Vice President Mark Andrews is actively pursuing different projects to better serve both Lawrence and

Haverhill campuses without raising tuition rates. Andrews said the Haverhill MVRTA bus to NECC is now making on campus stops at buildings B, C, D and E. Also, new improved signs will be coming soon as a result of a co-sponsored Wayfarer Signage grant.

Andrews has worked a "creative negotiation" with college security personnel and the Merrimack Valley Guard Service to start the new pilot program of Haverhill to Lawrence campus

Shuttle Service. This service is set up by the individual student's transportation needs.

The two vans can accommodate 15 persons each, and cycles through the parking areas, and also picks up at the college's public bus stops. At present, 30 persons are using the free service daily.

The M.V. Guard Service pays for this new program. The shuttle service runs seven times daily from Lawrence to Haverhill at the fol-

lowing times: 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30 a.m., 12:30, 1:30 2:15 and 3:45 p.m. The Haverhill to Lawrence service runs nine times a day beginning at 9:15, 10:15, 11 and noon. The shuttle continues at 1:15 p.m. 2 p.m. 3 p.m. 4:15 and 5:15 p.m.

Sue Shane, assistant registrar at Lawrence, is pleased this new service gives students a wider choice of classes to attend. Students who have transportation needs on a regular basis are urged to call Shane at 738-7701.

# Students warned about speeding on area roads

By DEBORAH CHAMBERS  
Staff Reporter

Vice President Mark Andrews stressed the need for students to use lot one, which closes at 5 p.m., to improve their time management and to drive courteously on and off campus.

"We (NECC) want to continue to be good neighbors in the residential, suburban area of Haverhill," he said.

He also says NECC has increas-

ing involvement with community groups like the Haverhill Chamber of Commerce and the Haverhill Police Department.

Haverhill Police computer records show 128 accidents between March 1990 and Sept. 1, 1999 on area streets. Eighteen of the accidents resulted in injuries.

Officer Edward Watson of the traffic safety department says there is a great deal of traffic to and from NECC every day and he has received complaints from lo-

cal residents regarding the speeding cars. Watson said the speed limit is 30 mph in residential areas. The majority of people pulled over for speeding are students late for classes or rushing to leave the area.

He adds the winter salt-restricted area on Kenoza Street requires safe driving during slippery conditions, and the fact that there are no sidewalks on the said roads leading to the College.

The Merrimack Valley Planning

Commission is working on a traffic access study and will present their recommendations to NECC.

The college will look to secure state and federal money for any changes or improvements. Transportation Manager Anthony Komornick acknowledges the request from NECC to begin a scope of service study and a cost analysis for intersections to the college, Route 110, Kenoza Avenue, Amesbury Road, Route 495, and Kenoza Street.

## News Briefs

### Security reports

Within the last month two baby pythons have been stolen from the Natural Science Prep Room on 3rd floor of E-building. The most recent theft occurred about 10 days ago. Each reptile is worth about \$100. One of the cabinet storage drawers was also damaged.

Oct. 19: A student from Amesbury suffered an apparent seizure in E-255.

Switchboard operator Vanessa Barreto called 911, and Haverhill Fire Dept., Haverhill Police Dept. and American Medical Response Ambulance personnel arrived. The student was transported to Hale Hospital.

Oct. 20: At 3 p.m., a student had an allergic reaction to her medication.

Sept. 9: Medical emergency. Security found a student on the floor shaking in and out of consciousness. The student was taken to Anna Jaques Hospital by ambulance.

Sept. 11: Security was called to Spurk-213 for a medical emergency. A student was having seizures and was transported to Hale Hospital.

### Grant to track access program

The NECC Foundation has awarded \$3,888 to fund the college's new Fast Track Access Program.

Fast Track was designed to assist Latinos who need remedial work before enrolling in classes at Northern Essex by providing eight weeks of intensive skills development. Participation in Fast Track will allow students to get placed properly and move into their certificate or degree program sooner. Training will be provided in the areas of vocabulary, reading comprehension and writing/grammar.

"The program was designed for Latinos who are effectively communicating in verbal English, but need additional skills in reading and writing," said Jorge Santiago, assistant dean for pre-college programs. "By providing this targeted training, we can ensure that these students will be better prepared to complete their course work and gain marketable skills."

The NECC Foundation is a group of volunteer community leaders committed to the college and to raising funds to support NECC student scholarships and other college needs, such as equipment purchases, program revitalization, and faculty and staff development.

### Women's workshop offered

Area women thinking of enrolling at NECC but are unsure about a course of study attended a free one hour workshop last week.

Sponsored by the college's Career Development Center, the "Choices For Women" workshop was designed to help women recognize possible career paths based on their interests and then identify the corresponding Northern Essex programs of study.

The workshop will be repeated on the Haverhill campus Saturday, Nov. 13 from 10 to 11 a.m. and Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 6 to 7 p.m.

# Students spend semester studying Grand Canyon

## ◆ 33 students work in this unique program

By GARY GHIOTO  
Arizona Daily Sun

**F**LAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — One of the tasks confronting students of Northern Arizona University's Grand Canyon Honors Semester is to look beyond the jaw-dropping scenery and get their hands dirty with some grueling field work.

Three groups of students recently rafted along the Colorado River on week-long trips, and the National Park Service was only too happy to accept the help.

The 33 students, from colleges and universities across the nation, grunted along canyon trails repairing washouts or obliterating unwanted footpaths, sweated in side canyons counting exotic plant species and toiled to collect seeds from native plants for revegetation projects.

And while providing some muscle for Park Service projects, the students said their voyage inside the canyon was a spiritual and practical experience that went far beyond classroom lectures, reading assignments and required projects.

"I guess the thing that struck me the most about being down there was the personal growth that I saw in people. I went down there, timid as I am, afraid of big, rushing water and rapids and I rowed through some small class one rapids," said Jill Coleman, a University of Minnesota senior.

"It was a challenge for me to accept the fear and get over it," she added.

The Grand Canyon Honors Semester is a unique program of study focusing on the Canyon's geology, history, current management issues, wildlife and future. For the past three months, the students have also explored water and land disputes, the tourism industry and Grand Canyon National Park management issues.

The three groups traveled a total of 226 river miles. Along the way, besides field projects, there were times for campfire singing, hikes, plenty of good food and critter spotting.

Tarantulas, a scorpion, mule deer and bighorn sheep were among the animal guests of the journey, several students said. A visit to a prehistoric dwelling above the river was also a highlight for the travelers.

"I kind of see things in a poetic, dramatic kind of way," said Matt Wasik, an English major from Benedictine University outside of Chicago. "But inside the Canyon, I got more of a concrete experience. You just dug

your hands into a beach and you took it away with you. It was cool."

Leslie Benfer, a North Carolina State psychology major, recalled the week-long river trip as a "spiritual experience."

"Water is where I draw a lot of my energy. It was really beautiful and it brought me back down to a peaceful place in my life," she recalled.

Alexander Gershenson, a Rutgers University student said somehow the Canyon seemed familiar and welcoming.

"I come from Jersey and the Grand Canyon is a completely different place. But it was amazing because the whole time there, I felt like it was home. I did not feel like I was intruding. I did not feel like I was a foreigner; starting from the first night out, it kind of accepted me."

At times the boatmen would cease rowing and allow the 18-foot crafts to float silently downstream. The students were free to stretch out and watch the soaring canyon walls and crystal clear sky slip by. One lucky group was in the Canyon during the full moon and went on an evening hike along a trail illuminated in silver light.

One student recalled how good it was to get "away from all the crash and the bang of civilization."

A semi-technical rock climb up an 800-foot cliffwall, short hikes and river rapids provided thrills for students such as Timothy Reese, a biology major from Salisbury, Md.

"The side hikes were a blast. You would go off to a side canyon and walk for an hour and a half and you wouldn't come anywhere close to the end of it," he said.

Many honors students recalled that time stopped once the group reached the bottom of the Canyon and began their river journey.

"There was no use for a watch. Everything just flowed and stress melted away," said Megan Harkless, an international studies major from Pennsylvania.

Jamie Anderson of Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina is studying the impact of Glen Canyon dam on the Colorado River. "It was really interesting to see its effects up close instead of just being able to read about them," she said.

The unique semester is designed to allow students to penetrate beyond the romantic images and myths of the Canyon and the old west, said Sarah Petras of Norwalk, Ct.

"There's tons of books, movies and stuff that you can learn about the Grand Canyon. But the most valuable thing is to be there ... it showed us the reality of the Grand Canyon in a way that a lot of people don't get to experience," she said.

## Late night meals for those hungry Harvard students

### ◆ They need the food for energy to power their cramming sessions

**C**AMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) — Realizing that the traditional dinner hour isn't cutting it when so many students are burning the midnight oil, Harvard plans to offer its undergraduates a fourth meal late at night.

The nation's oldest college will join the ranks of other colleges nationwide in cooking up a second dinner to fuel late-night studying.

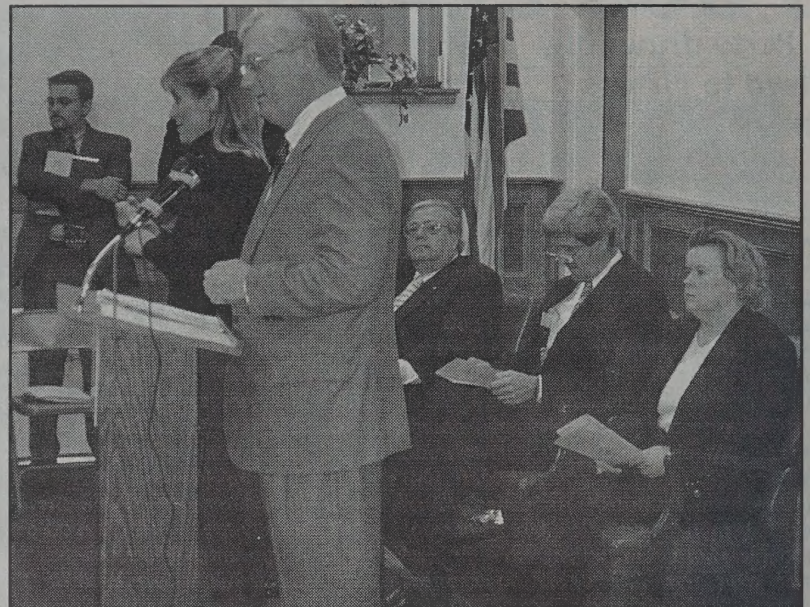
Administrators said they began to realize just how late students were staying up when they saw e-mails dated from 3 a.m. or 4 a.m.

"If Harvard wants to be a diverse school, it has to have diverse meals," said junior Charles Zerner. "Eating late is just a natural response to being up later. It's ridiculous if you're staying up till 2 to eat at 5. That's nine hours without food."

The idea first arose last year, when Harvard cafeterias set out late-night bagels, cereal and coffee cake during final exams. Students said the school should do it all year.

The university must now decide how to expand the meal plan without bumping up the cost of room and board. They also need to decide what time to serve it. Some want it around 11 p.m.; others want it as late as 2 a.m.

"It's just the culture here," student Chiwen Bao said. "If I want to do well, I have to strive, I have to stay up late. I have to sacrifice sleep, or else I'm not maxing out my opportunities."



David Cousins photo  
**LAWRENCE DEDICATION:** President David Hartleb starts off the ceremonies to formally open the Lawrence extension campus and the NECC/HUD Lawrence Business Assistance Center earlier this week. Sitting behind Hartleb are former trustee Joseph Bevilacqua, Senator John Kerry and Lawrence Mayor Patricia Dowling.

## HIGHER ED. BRIEFS

### Former Auburn editor wins award

**A**UBURN, Ala. (AP) — The Auburn Plainsman, the student newspaper at Auburn University, and its former editor won national awards for journalism excellence, including coverage of the resignation of football coach Terry Bowden.

The Plainsman received a Pacemaker Award, college journalism's highest honor, and Lee Davidson, editor for 1998-99, got the Scholastic Press Freedom Award from the Student Press Law Center.

Both were presented this week during the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Advisers national convention in Atlanta.

Davidson, who graduated in June, now works for the Mobile Register. She was censured by the AU Communications Board earlier this year after the newspaper ran stories and editorials involving the Bowden resignation and the influence of Auburn trustee Bobby Lowder on the campus.

"I am proud of Lee Davidson and all the editors and staff who made last year's Plainsman special. It was courageous college journalism," newspaper advisor Ed Williams said.

### CUNY may lose its remediation courses

**A**LBANY, N.Y. (AP) — The City University of New York system should be allowed to eliminate its remedial courses, state Education Commissioner Richard Mills has recommended.

"There are risks on all sides but the more prudent course is to move ahead to a comprehensive improvement in CUNY's capacity to meet its mission," Mills said in his recommendation to the state Board of Regents.

The Regents will vote Nov. 22 on whether to accept Mills' advice. CUNY cannot drop the classes without the Regents' approval.

CUNY consists of 11 senior and six junior colleges, including City College. About two-thirds of CUNY students are minorities and about half have English as a second language.

Several politicians, including New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, had

long pushed to eliminate remediation at CUNY's four-year schools in what they said was an effort to raise standards.

School figures show that more than 40 percent of CUNY students, including those at its community colleges, fail to graduate within seven years.

Under the new remedial policy being pressed by CUNY Board of Trustees President Herman Badillo, a Giuliani ally, students who fail one or more of the university's placement exams in reading, writing and math would not be allowed to enroll at CUNY's senior colleges.

Opponents of that plan say it will deny access to low-income and minority students.

The Education Department's five-member team of out-of-state college officials who studied CUNY's proposal recommended in September that the Regents approve it.

### Program to monitor organ trafficking

**B**ERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — The University of California at Berkeley is opening a center to watch for and investigate illegal trafficking in human organs around the world.

The center's founders — four professors from Berkeley and Columbia University — said the practice is an increasing global problem driven by desperate poverty and rising demand for transplant organs.

In the United States alone, 4,300 people died awaiting a transplant last year.

"Transplant surgery has entered a global market and we need to keep a close watch on that," said Nancy Scheper-Hughes, a Berkeley anthropology professor and cofounder of the Organs Watch center, opening Monday.

Organs Watch will identify hot spots where illegal organ trafficking may be occurring and investigate.

Lawrence Cohen, a Berkeley anthropology professor and Organs Watch cofounder, said that during his research in India, he heard tales of organ theft that appeared to be unfounded. But he also talked to people living in poverty who had sold one of their kidneys just to buy food.

# Hunger grips Congo's capital

◆ *Kabila threatens to revive war as starvation is just ahead*

By KAMANGA MUTOND  
Associated Press Writer

**K**INSHASA, Congo (AP)—In war or in peace, many of the six million people in Congo's crumbling capital, have one thing in common: hunger.

In a desperate bid to raise money for a costly 10-month war that threatens to flare anew, President Laurent Kabila is printing banknotes while fixing prices.

Despite his efforts, food prices on the black market have doubled in the last week. And foreign currencies, a hedge against inflation in the past, are now illegal. With little hope of making a profit, farmers have cut back production.

That's left many without food.

"If things continue like this, we are going to die soon," says Wivine Gunda, a housewife who does odd jobs to help her family make ends meet.

The family's main breadwinner, Gunda's husband Martin Kossa, a junior official in Congo's Ministry of Public Works, cannot even afford to buy a 20-pound bag of cassava, a potato-like staple, with his monthly salary of about \$6.

The situation is getting worse instead of better. Prices of palm oil, cassava and canned fish have doubled in the past week alone while another important staple, maize, has disappeared from market shelves.

Business leaders blame the government's stringent commercial controls on trade and foreign exchange for stifling an already ailing economy. Exports and imports have been at a virtual standstill since September, according to the Belgium-Congo Chamber of Commerce.

Kabila, in turn, accuses traders of hoarding supplies to create artificial shortages and raise prices. He threatens to jail or even execute those who disobey state price controls.

Many working class families go every other day without eating and children are usually the first



**SEEKING A SAFE PLACE:** An indigenous Tzotzil Indian family leaves their community of Canolal, in the municipality of Chenalho in Chiapas, Mexico. At least 42 Indians have left the community in fear of paramilitary groups moving to the nearby community of Acteal.

AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo

to suffer.

The World Food Program, a U.N. relief agency, said last week that child malnutrition is on the rise in Congo and modest feeding programs intended for 3,000 youngsters are being inundated by many more.

"You can say many thousands are malnourished, go hungry," said Kees Tuinenburg, a representative from the program. "You do not see improvements, only more problems."

People living in the countryside have it even worse.

In parts of Congo, rebel and government forces continue to fight despite a July 10 peace deal. More than 800,000 people have been forced to flee their homes, often hiding in jungles. Many are desperately hungry.

Those who need the most help are the most difficult to find, Tuinenburg said. Most roads have been ruined by war and decades of

economic decay before Kabila came to power in a 1997 rebellion. River traders, long the country's main conduit for goods and services, can no longer freely ply the Congo River, which has been carved into dangerous zones of rebel and government control.

Even when there are airfields allowing relief groups to feed refugees, aid efforts are hampered by lack of funds. The World Food Program has received just a quarter of the \$30 million it says it needs to feed 350,000 refugees.

Some Congolese officials fear that unless countrywide food shortages are alleviated, places like Kinshasa that until now have been largely spared by the war could face widespread unrest.

But that hasn't stopped Kabila's government from threatening to revive the war.

Foreign Minister Abdoulaye Yerodia issued an ultimatum earlier this week to enemies Rwanda,

Uganda and Burundi, threatening to abandon a peace accord by year's end unless the eastern neighbors pull their troops out of Congo before Jan. 1.

It was the most vocal threat of renewed war from the government since Kabila and neighboring leaders signed a peace accord on July 10 that was later also signed by the rebels.

Uganda and Rwanda, which both signed the accord, openly support rebel factions, although Burundi denies charges that it also sent troops and equipment on behalf of the insurgents. Kabila is supported by Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Gunda, searching for affordable food in a nearly barren Kinshasa marketplace, shakes her head when asked if she fears renewed fighting.

"My children are hungry, so I can only think about today," she said.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hungry cats kill 21 in Tanzania

By RODRIQUE NGOWI  
Associated Press Writer

**D**ARES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Lions and leopards have killed 21 people in southern Tanzania this year, largely because a severe drought has killed their normal prey, a government official said.

"Drought has forced older animals to move closer to human settlement in search of food and into killing people they come across during late hours," Natural Resources Minister Zakia Meghji said.

She said the government has sent armed scouts to the area to hunt down the man-eaters.

"Experience has shown that once a lion has a taste of human blood, the beast will come back for more and it must be eliminated," she said in a telephone interview from Dodoma, the capital.

Some people make matters worse by settling in isolated areas surrounded by tall grass that provides cover for lions and leopards, the minister said.

"They creep close to the homesteads and then attack," she said.

Other animals, including crocodiles and hippopotamuses, have injured 22 people along Tanzania's coastal region this year, Meghji said.

The government has no plans to target crocodiles and hippopotamuses. While crocodiles sometimes go for people washing clothes along river banks, she said, they do not leave their natural habitat to attack humans.

### Irish nurses settle contract

**D**UBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Irish nurses accepted a new benefits package Friday after staging an unprecedented 10-day strike last month.

Members of the four unions that represent the Republic of Ireland's 27,500 nurses voted by a two-to-one majority to accept the deal, even though it fell short of their demands for wage increases for all members.

The compromise package recommended by an independent labor relations court proposed the creation of specialized, higher-paying grades of nurses. That addressed one of the strikers' key complaints — that the pay scale didn't reward veteran service or specialized training.

But most nurses, who currently earn the equivalent of \$21,000 to \$30,000 per year, would receive no extra wages as a result of their strike, a partial victory for the government of Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

The outcome coincided with the government's announcement that the unemployment rate had fallen to 5.2 percent, the lowest rate since Ireland began compiling precise statistics in the early 1980s.

*Due to a problem with our wire syndicate, our book reviews will not appear in this issue. Look for them to return in two weeks*

## Long-lost Archimedes manuscript being studied

◆ *It's possible that new theorems will be discovered*

By TAMMY WEBBER  
Associated Press Writer

**C**HICAGO (AP) — Once thought to be lost forever, a 1,000-year-old parchment manuscript containing the works of Archimedes is being preserved and studied for insights into one of the greatest minds of the ancient world.

The book, which scholars believe was copied in the 10th century by a scribe from Archimedes' original scrolls, was bought anonymously at auction for \$2 million last year.

It is being displayed at the Field Museum in Chicago until Jan. 3, when it will be returned to the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore for restoration.

The manuscript is the only copy in the original Greek of Archimedes' theory of flotation of bodies. The text and diagrams also detail his mathematical treatises and mechanical theorems and contain the roots of modern calculus and gravitational theory.

"What this does is broaden the base of our understanding of the mainstream of Western mathematical historical tradition," said William Noel, the gallery's curator. "We can understand the tradition of thought."

Archimedes, born in Sicily in 287 B.C., is credited with discover-

ing the principle of water displacement while sitting in his bath. He also invented the pulley and a planetarium that demonstrated the movement of the stars.

About 200 years after the book was written, the text and diagrams were erased by scraping the skin, and the leaves were cut and re-used in a smaller book of Christian prayers. New words were written across the original text, which still shows up faintly.

The book disappeared around 1922-24 from a monastery in Constantinople. It resurfaced in the possession of a French family in the 1930s and was sold by the family last year.

The manuscript survived a fire, which parched the edges, and has also been damaged by mold.

The manuscript is called the Archimedes Palimpsest. Palimpsest is writing material that has been re-used by erasing earlier writing.

Restoration is expected to last four or five years. After the pages are removed and cleaned, the text must be read to learn the original order of the pages. Scanners and ultraviolet light will allow scholars to read the text and diagrams.

The possibility of finding new theorems in the manuscript, though remote, is intriguing, said Field Museum librarian Benjamin Williams.

"That would be quite significant in the mathematical world," he said. "It is an unknown, and that's what's so thrilling about this."

# Basketball teams hope to

## ◆ NECC seeks to start a championship run by slam-dunking its rivals

By NATHAN SCOTT  
Sports Editor

According to head women's basketball coach Andrew Pittington, it's an entirely different season for the lady knights.

Last year there were six, sometimes eight players on the roster. This didn't allow key players any rest time on the bench, and led to fatigue—and losses.

This year there are 14 players, a "full squad" according to Pittington.

"More students on the team should bring back winning energy," Pittington said.

Aside from the larger roster, there are other factors which should contribute to later-season success.

"I think the players are ready to go this year because of practice in our summer leagues," Pittington said.

There has also been some great recruiting

from neighboring high schools. Players from Andover, Lowell, Billerica, Lawrence, and southern New Hampshire, all comprise the young knights squad.

"We have a lot of talented freshman," Pittington said. "But the program was crumbling before I got here and it could take around two years of recruiting to get back to where we should be."

Women's basketball was 8-13 last year. Pittington wants not only to reverse this (13-8) but qualify for the conference tournament and win it down in Roxbury this year.

This will be anything but easy though. With schools like St. Michaels College, Harvard University, and Williams on the schedule, the team has some work cut out for them. NECC won't play the varsity teams at Harvard and other four year schools. However, they will play the JV teams.

It's important to see that the line between JV and varsity is often blurred—and that players from JV will sometimes play at varsity (if they're good enough) to practice their game at a higher level.

This means, that women's basketball players here at NECC could be up against players who are ready for big-time college basketball.

Despite the monstrous opposition, Pittington is a competitor. He has coached at



File photo

GOING SOMEWHERE? Not against the Knights women's basketball team this season.

Savio Prep. In East Boston for several years, taught middle school gym for nearly six years in Lexington, and played at Framingham State.

Pittington is also an assistant to Sue MacAvoy—NECC's interim athletic director. Instead of being overwhelmed by this ex-

"We have a lot of talented freshman," Pittington said. "But the program was crumbling before I got here and it could take around two years of recruiting to get back to where we should be."

ANDREW P

tra responsibility, Pittington feels it actually helps his team.

"Being an assistant to Sue allows me to be accessible to my players," Pittington said.

Dorothy Wallace is the assistant women's basketball coach, ensuring that the lady knights will always have a coach around.

"One of the strengths of our coaching staff

# Men's team looks good in early pr

## ◆ Stratton strengthens men's team with stress on fundamentals

By NATHAN SCOTT  
Sports Editor

Men's head basketball coach Darren Stratton is a man with a plan. Keep a strong foundation in academics, and combine this with a rigorous training routine used by UCONN—and you've got something good cooking.

Playing for the 1993 NECC men's basketball team, Stratton and his fellow Knights were derailed in the regional championship by a CCRI team that beat them by one point.

"That game is still as painful today as it was then," Stratton said.

Stratton came back to NECC by invitation of former head men's basketball coach, Richard Steele.

Stratton got a call from Steele who said that he needed an assistant coach. Being a

former student-athlete, and local resident, Stratton readily agreed. Steele, now working with coach Carnovale in Pinkerton Academy's basketball program left the head coaching position open, and Stratton was right there to fill it.

"I felt a strong connection to the school," Stratton said.

"As a coach, being able to draw talent from around the Merrimack Valley is a plus. I also think that at the high school level, the valley is the best conference in the state," Stratton said.

In order to get the talent from schools in this area though, Stratton knows he must show high school coaches that NECC is an up and coming force in both the basketball and academic worlds.

This year, all sports teams have mandatory study halls every school day from 5-6, where students come to do homework.

What happens if you miss study hall? According to Stratton, if you're not with a tutor, in another class, or calling from the road in heavy traffic, there's no excuse.

Athletes who have missed the mandatory study sessions face a very unwelcome punish-



David Cousins photo

ROADKILL: Nathan Proulx (#33) drives over some Bradford Squirrels.

ment.

They have to sit down by themselves as the rest of the team runs laps around the track for half an hour. And this is before practice gets started.

Seven players were lost to academics last year and Stratton doesn't want the same thing happening again.

"They're no use to us if they're not eligible," Stratton says.

In fact, Stratton's dedication to the academic game extends even into the early morning hours.

"I've had players call me at two in the morning with school problems," Stratton said.

"That's why we schedule some students with academic tutors. We're trying to prepare the kids for the next level, both in sports and academics."

He added, "the classroom comes first."

As far as basketball goes, NECC's game is in high gear.

With a recent rout of rival Bradford College, and a large crowd in attendance, everyone's optimistic so far.

"If we take care of the ball better, and get our defensive play up, the sky's the limit," Stratton said.

Star freshman player Joe Marshal, who finished with 21 points against Bradford, may have just the "care package" NECC needs.

He was unanimously voted in as captain—which is impressive considering his freshman status.

"Joe is the epitome of a leader who leads by example," Pittington said.

"He wants to take everyone into battle, always keeps practice trouble-free, and is a

## KNIGHTS WIN BIG AGAINST BRADFORD

By DAVID COUSINS  
Photography Editor

NECC opened their season in a large way on Joe Marshall added 21 points and 16 rebounds on the way to an 81-63 victory. The Knights' offense worked throughout the entire game as Josh Maldonado and Nathan Proulx added 15 points apiece on the way to victory.

The game was never close, as NECC's defense of point guards Ivan Yambo James Chaney stopped Bradford College star Shiller Erilus, holding him to only 20 points, with most of his scoring coming in the late stages of the game.

The next game will be played at home against Bunker Hill Community College Thursday at 7 p.m.

# to win



PITTINGTON

is its youth," Pittington said. "We also seem to be well funded, and this makes everything easier."

Women's basketball practice is at 6:00 pm every night in the sports and fitness center, and guests are welcome to watch.

The Knight's next home game is at 2:00 p.m. vs. Dean College on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>.

# practices

real motivator," Stratten said.

But one player can't carry the team, and as Stratten said, "The team has to physically gel before we start to win."

"We also need to eliminate turnovers, and get going on rebounding. These are the two things that are keeping us from a championship season."

"Our main goal as a team is to get back where we were. That game where Stratten and his fellow Knights lost to CCRI by one point was the last time NECC was approaching a national title.

"We're starting to play a lot of fast-break basketball, and more hard-nosed defense," and this is the kind of play we had back in '92-'93," Stratten said.

To make the regionals though, NECC will have to be in the top four of seven teams, and it only gets more difficult from there.

Roxbury Community College as well as UCONN at Avery Point are traditionally two of the hardest regional two-year schools to top in the playoffs.

To prepare, Stratten's Knights usually practice from 4 to 6 p.m. in the sports and fitness center.

There is of course lay-up practice and other drills, and the weight room is used extensively.

What Stratten hopes will give his players the winning edge is a program called plyometrics.

Developed by trainers at UCONN and implemented by NECC's Rob Parker, it involves serious conditioning drills, including a unique jumping exercise that Stratten claims has boosted vertical leaps from between 3/4 and 4 inches.

Players have to jump over hurdles with their legs together, and land on their toes.

Stratten knows he pushes his guys hard, but as he said, "A lot of them are blue collar fighters...they've got heart and hustle and I'd take the team against anyone."



GET OFF ME: NECC's #23 Joe Marshall goes up for ball against Bradford College defenders. Later, Marshall takes it to the rim against rival Bradford for two of his 21 points. *David Cousins photos*



*David Cousins photos*  
COACH LIKES WHAT HE SEES: Darren Stratten, left, watches his players in an easy win against Bradford College.

## ROSTERS

### Women's Basketball 1999-2000

| No. | Name              |
|-----|-------------------|
| #4  | Lyndsey Hamblet   |
| #10 | Viki Pierce       |
| #12 | Lyndsey Hamblet   |
| #13 | Tenia Caldwell    |
| #14 | Danielle Scanlan  |
| #20 | Kristen Bernard   |
| #21 | Julia Helbich     |
| #22 | Carolyn Dunn      |
| #23 | Glenda Cancel     |
| #24 | Elizabeth Donovan |
| #25 | Jessica Hamilton  |
| #31 | Tricia Hamblet    |
| #33 | Alicia Cacho      |

### Men's Basketball 1999-2000

|     |                   |
|-----|-------------------|
| #5  | James Chaney      |
| #6  | Bryan Camacho     |
| #10 | Joshua Maldonado  |
| #11 | Ivan Yambo        |
| #14 | Erik Roaf         |
| #22 | Paki Phillips     |
| #23 | Joe Marshall      |
| #24 | Al Martone        |
| #32 | Herbertio Solivan |
| #33 | Nathan Proulx     |
| #40 | Jesse Martin      |
| #42 | Francis Noboa     |

# She reads the lines in your life

## ◆ Futures foretold in Lawrence campus special event

By MARK BEHAN  
Staff Reporter

After five minutes of feeling her palms, Susan Deren predicted that NECC student Angela Hartman would someday become a great short-story writer and poet. She correctly answered intimate questions about Hartman's parents. She vividly described Hartman's teenage years. And she knew Hartman's favorite number.

"She knew everything," said Hartman, 19, who has had her poems published in Parnassus and other magazines. "She told me I am a very creative person, and she was surprised that I am a criminal justice major."

Coincidentally next fall, Hartman had already made plans on attending UNH as an English major.

Last week, Deren read NECC students' and staffs' palms at the Lawrence and Haverhill campuses.

Though her appearances were billed as "psychic readings," Deren doesn't like the connotation of psychic. She considers herself to be a professional intuitive or empath.

"I am someone who has the ability to sense the emotions of others," Deren said. "And the ability to relate past events in a person's life as well as being able to feel the physical and medical problems that an individual experiences."

Steve Traverso, 19, was amazed at how much Deren knew about him.

"She hit the nail right on the head about a lot of stuff happening in my life," Traverso said, a business transfer major. "She told me I was thinking of changing majors and about how I've always had dreams of becoming a firefighter or serving in the military."

After graduation, Traverso said, he'd like to join the military and become a military policeman.

"She told me my life is boring and that I need some variety in my life," Traverso said. "She also said that I need a lot of attention, and that I don't like to be told what to do, which is true."

Deren, a licensed broker who worked for years with her brother in the insurance business, became a professional intuitive two years ago.

"Two years ago strange things started happening," said Deren, owner of Angelic Messengers, a company providing many different intuitive and empathic services, including animal communication.

"So many people — people that I didn't even know — were coming to me and sharing their personal problems. Intuitively, I knew what was going on with them and I was able to help them," she said.

Deren travels extensively around New England, providing her services at many colleges.

"I really like going to colleges," she said. "There are many people (at college) who do not know what they want to do. I try to help them. I try to feel their soul and heart."

With some students, Deren said, she feels "a wonderful warm rush" and knows they are happy with life at school. With others she doesn't get any feeling at all and senses confusion or problems.

Deren said that as she was reading a



Mark Behan photo

**POWER OF INTUITION:** Susan Deren reads the palm of maintenance foreman Cliff Clarke, predicting that he has many years of campus emergencies ahead of him.

NECC student's palm, she didn't get any feeling when the student told her he wanted to be a police officer. She said she saw basketballs floating around the student's head.

"It (seeing the basketballs) was a sign, and I tried to address it," she said.

"I see basketball in his future, somewhere. He later told me that he was a very talented basketball player in high school but had stopped playing. I suggested he go out for the team at NECC."

Miriam Maisonet, 20, said it was fun to get her palm read, even though she's not sure if she believes.

"She told me I have healing hands, and that I might go into the health profession or become a nurse or a doctor, someday," Maisonet said, a criminal justice major, who aspires to work for the FBI. "I don't know if I want to work as a nurse."

Maisonet did say she is using her "healing hands" as part of an EMT course she is taking.

Keila Lopez, 20, wants to become a police officer. She reads her horoscope everyday.

She said she always wanted to have her palm read, but the lines for the palm reader at the beach are always so long.

"She described my boyfriend perfectly, she knew his name and age," Lopez said. "She told me I was a very logical person, and that I am a leader, which is true."

Deren told Lopez, she is going to have two or three kids and become a detective someday.

"She didn't get a vibe for police officer. We'll have to see."

Deren said books are available for people interested in palm reading, though she doesn't subscribe to the notion that one can become intuitive by reading a book.

"Reading the person's palm lines doesn't mean anything to me — I feel the information."

"I really don't understand how it works," admitted Deren. "I've been clairvoyant my whole life."

Deren is a firm believer in the power of prayer and calls her intuitiveness a "special gift from God's energies."

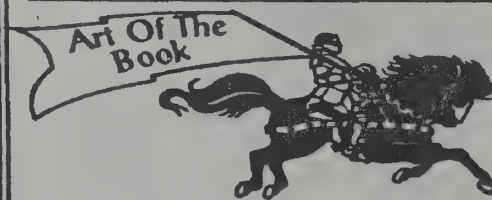
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# Looking at race

## ◆ A black man's odyssey into poor white America ends with hope

By BREEDA M. WHITMORE  
Guest Contributor

A powerful comment from a student in the audience substantiated the theme of a presentation about racism by Wil Haygood, a Boston Globe writer. He spoke last week about his journey into poor white communities to try to understand "if the distance between poor whites and poor blacks wasn't the great unwashed truth of our country."

The student, Karyn Schneider, said she didn't think she was prejudiced until she went to South Carolina and was at the airport surrounded by all black people.

"It scared me to be there," she said. She explained that she doesn't think she is prejudiced, she was just in a situation that was out of her realm. She did say however, that she is very proud of herself despite this experience, because she has raised a daughter who respects blacks and will not tolerate racial slurs being used.

This double-edged explanation dovetailed in an interesting way with Haygood's message about racism in America. It exists, it is bad, but there is hope. He heard the phrase, "I'm not a racist, but ..." a thousand times, and he said if you only stay with your own culture all the time, then you don't know if your ideas are stereotypical or not.

Haygood wanted to journey into the heart of poor white communities for many reasons. One reason was that he remembered that in 1968, Martin Luther King Jr., wanted to have a Poor People's March for

poor whites and poor blacks.

"There was hope for a great merging between these two groups," Haygood said. "But the march never took place because King was killed."

He said there was a feeling that if poor whites and poor blacks could reach an understanding, they could become a powerful political force in the country. But it never happened.

He also wanted to explore something that hadn't been done before. This odyssey, he felt, would be riveting and irresistible. It would be something novel and challenging.

"I wanted to lay the cards on the table and see how the color of my skin affects people in poor white communities," he said. "I was interested in talking to whites as a journalist rather than talking to them as a black man."

The whites he met, all poor, were not all the same in the way they responded to him. There was a difference in how men and women reacted to him. Susie Householder from Hayti, MO, told him quite plainly that her husband Quentin was a bigot.

But Haygood still wanted to meet him. When they finally met Quentin told him all about his childhood, and how he called blacks niggers and other names, and how he beat them up for no reason. Susie tries to override his influence by exposing their children to black people in their community. She sends her kids to a preschool where there are blacks, even though an all-white school is closer to her home.

Haygood said most people were enthralled that somebody cared about their opinions.

"I had no sense that I was under siege," he said. "I had no sense that I was going to get hurt. Sometimes doors got closed in my face, but I am used to that from doing other stories."

He told the story of Bo from Fairmont,

W. Va. Bo was a quiet bear of a man lurking in the background while Haygood was interviewing his sister Laurie Merrifield in their trailer home. After listening to Laurie try to explain racism, Bo suddenly came to life and passionately explained how people become racist.

"Don't you understand" he asked. "You're cool when you say to your parents, 'I hate niggers!' That's just the way it is. It's our racial destiny when our mothers raise us saying, 'Nigger this' and Nigger that.' You know what I mean? How do you escape that, huh? How?"

Journalists are historians on the run, Haygood joked, so he understood that his trek into the hearts and minds of poor white people had to be "honest and honorable." He kept his focus simple.

"I approached people as a writer. I laid everything on the table and I had no way to influence anything," he said. "The only technique is charm."

Haygood was invited to NECC by English Professor Carol Barron. She read his Boston Globe article in July while she was preparing to teach an African-American literature course in the fall. She thought it would be very important to have an authentic voice, a black voice in her classroom.

She explained that it was the photo on the cover of the story that captured her attention at first, and made her decide to invite Haygood to speak to her class about racism in America.

"The cover story held a photo of Wil (Haygood) standing next to a much smaller white man with three towheaded children, and Wil had his hand on the man's shoulder in a gentle way," she said. "It was the reversal of the world I had been preparing to teach - the existential reversal - where the black man appears to be the dominant force, the patron of the white man."

Haygood's quest for understanding was

not without trepidation. He took a drive with Bo around Fairmont. While they were out, Bo pointed to different places and gave brief run-downs on the histories of who lived there, and what kind of people they were. One such house was 600 Ogden Ave. Bo said he knew nothing about the house except that black people lived there, and they were drug dealers.

It was a judgment call on Haygood's part. He had already met the people who lived in the house. They were white, decent and hardworking. He decided to say nothing to Bo.

"There was a concern on my part that maybe Bo would have thought that I was trying to embarrass him or shame him," Haygood said. "I had seen how emotional the issues of race made him, and I did not want him to erupt. There was great apprehension on my part that Bo would think I was trying to teach him a lesson. I would rather let the lesson unfold naturally."

Barron said her class was not disappointed with the presentation.

"They were overjoyed," she said. "They felt he was not just a courageous reporter, but was a modest, 'charming' man who was interested in their reaction to his article. There wasn't a distinction between the man who walked through poor white neighborhoods and the man standing behind the podium."

For his part, Haygood said, racism is a wound everywhere and poverty harms the soul. He believes it is heartbreakingly painful to be poor in a country as rich as America. He has traveled all over the world and his perspective is that for a young country, epic changes for the better have been made.

"I feel like I want to take a giant American flag out of my bag and wave it around," he said. "I hope I'm not being too sentimental. I believe good people will prevail."

## Haygood offers glimpse into crossroads of life

### ◆ His remarks move this student to question her views about race

By KARYN SCHNEIDER  
Staff Reporter

The room fell to a hush as journalist/author Wil Haygood stepped onto the podium. I sat there in silence in this room filled with diverse people, as Haygood told his story.

It started in mid-April at the Boston Globe as Haygood walked down the hall with the magazine editor.

"Nick, I've got an idea" Haygood said, "I want to take off. I want to take a journey. I want to lay the cards on the table, and go right into poor white America and see how the color of my skin affects people."

So Haygood took his black skinned body and forged into the unknown. He wanted to see why racism exists. Haygood felt the fear of his emotions as he traveled the highways to find his answer.

### OPINION COLUMN

On what seemed to be the longest road, Route 250 in West Virginia, Haygood looked for the right person to talk to. He looked for the right door to knock on. He'd already experienced people slamming doors in his face. Not this time, the sign at the end of the road says, "No Trespassing." This time Haygood decided it was time to get out and do what he had come to do. He was a journalist who was looking for a story.

Knowing he needed to start somewhere he knocked on the door. A woman answered. Her name was Laurie, she let him in no questions asked. As he stood in her trailer home, a man appeared. This was Bo, the woman's brother. Bo turned away from Haygood. He knows nothing but prejudice. This is how he grew up.

Haygood was talking to Laurie when Bo suddenly spoke up. He said he was brought up using a word that word Haygood said is like a razor slashing his face: nigger. This word was used all Bo's life, in his house, in front of the children. Haygood had heard this

word many times before.

Haygood asked Bo if he would meet him the next day to show him around town and talk. Bo said he'd meet him at noon. Haygood tells of how he waited in his hotel room for Bo to show up. Time had passed. Bo was 15 minutes to a half an hour late. Thinking Bo wasn't going to show up Haygood decided to go downstairs and check his messages. As he opened the door, there stood Bo. There was no doubt in his mind he was going to show up or was there? Bo became an intricate part of Haygood's story.

Haygood's words echoed through my mind raising the question of how was anyone supposed

to cross this racism barrier if the words that had been spoken were words that had been spoken for years? Children are supposed to grow up knowing that all people are equal that a person was a person with no reference to color. The reason there's a difference between black and white has to do with slavery in our country and the power of the whites.

Haygood continued to tell his story. Before he left that small town in West Virginia, he met a little girl who grew up in poor white America. She wanted to show Haygood her frog and they became friends instantly. The little girl didn't see Haygood as a black man, but just a kind man.

Then Haygood said, "I've wondered if the distance between poor whites and poor blacks wasn't the great unwashed truth of our country. I'm talking about words and histories flying back and forth off angry tongues. I'm talking about two people standing on opposite sides of the road. I was born on one side of that road..."

As I sat there, I thought, Haygood was a good example of how a black person can get along in a predominately white world. A

country full of prejudice, a world where there is so much hate.

America today has gone through so many changes when it comes to racism. Many people were brought up in the "Archie Bunker era." Some people were taught not to converse with people outside their own race where there were different cultures and different opinions. Which side of the road were you born on?

This is one question we need to ask in order to face a new world. In order for our children to grow up knowing that all men were created equal no matter what race, sex or religion they are. For indeed, prejudice starts in the home and continues throughout life.

People that Haygood encountered were more interested in talking to Wil Haygood the journalist, as opposed to the Wil Haygood the black man. Would you have let Wil Haygood the black man into your home if you didn't know he was a reporter for the Boston Globe as well?

We all need to make peace with ourselves and look at the question of race with an open mind and an open heart. We need this in order to change our society.

“...go right into poor white America and see how the color of my skin affects people.”

WIL HAYGOOD

# New trustee commits to education, family values

## ◆ Trustee tackles all the important issue in recent interview

By DEBORAH A. CHAMBERS  
Staff Reporter

Wayne Capolupo 41, of Salisbury, has replaced Joseph Bevilacqua on the Northern Essex Community College Board of Trustees. He has answered several questions for our readers.

Q. What prompted you to consider joining the Board of Trustees?

A. I had a long conversation with NECC President David Hartleb, whom I know personally, and in August 1999, Massachusetts Gov. Paul Cellucci appointed me to the Trustee Board at Northern Essex.

Q. How old are you?

A. 41. Born in March of 1958.

Q. Have you lived in this area long?

A. I was born in East Boston then moved to Newbury at the age of three. I have lived in Salisbury for 20 years.

Q. Did you attend NECC?

A. Yes, I attended NECC in 1977, then went on to the University of Lowell to pursue a degree in Nuclear Engineering.

Q. Why did you choose NECC?

A. NECC offers a wonderful opportunity for quality college education at an affordable cost. I believe young people need the time and support from college educators to define their career choices, and Northern Essex provides the positive social skills which are needed for learning, studying and fu-

ture employment.

Q. Are you married?

A. Yes, in November of this year, my wife MaryAnn and I will be married 15 years.

Q. Do you have any children?

A. Yes, three children, Ryan, 15, Erica, 10, and the youngest girl Melanie is eight.

Q. What do you do for work?

A. I split my time between the road and bridge construction business and computer networking/website developing along with two brothers, a sister, and a brother-in-law.

Q. Do you have a favorite hobby?

A. Yes, to get away from the fast paced lifestyle of our society, I find solitude and peace in cutting and splitting firewood on my wooded property in Salisbury.

Q. What is your favorite food?

A. I enjoy most foods, and have a liking for broiled seafood in a light garlic sauce.

Q. Do you have any pets?

A. The family feline that my wife chose is the only pet. I enjoy the one cat, but would not be comfortable with a house full of pets.

Q. Do you have any religious beliefs?

A. My Catholic faith and religion is a practice I believe to be an important part of the family values parents need to model for their children.

Q. What is your biggest concern right now?

A. Because I feel the society in our country has changed so drastically in my lifetime, I am determined to keeping my commitment of spending quality time with my wife and children. Because of the off-color jokes, offensive language and sexual innuendoes during the family hours of 7 to 9 p.m., some of that time is spent looking at

the television programs my children watch.

Q. How do you handle what your children are exposed to on TV?

A. I am firm about not condoning the disrespectful behavior or loose moral themes that are portrayed as entertainment. In addition, I choose educational stations such as Nova, the History, and Discovery channels, or I turn off the television.

Q. Please comment on violence in the schools.

A. I want my children to be able to go to school or college with the comfort of personal safety. I feel violence in the schools is a major problem in our society, and it goes back to how parents provide discipline, quality time, and guidance towards educational opportunities.

Q. What is one major area of a parent's responsibility?

A. I believe in the parent's role of providing a lot of support during the tough adolescent years. Parents who are looking to further their own education can take advantage of what is offered at NECC part time, or full time.

Q. Why is attending college full time so important?

A. Full time students are needed to continue to enhance the quality of Northern Essex Community College, because most full time students take advantage of all the college offers beyond the classroom experience.

Q. What are your goals for the year 2000?

A. As a trustee of NECC, I want to use my background in business and construction to work in economic and workforce training and towards the physical building im-



Deborah Chambers photo  
NEW TRUSTEE: Wayne Capolupo hopes to begin to work on workforce development and training issues.

provements at the college.

Q. Have you been assigned any specific priorities or action items?

A. At the next meeting on Nov. 17, I hope to have some definite action items to pursue.

# Students flock to new on-line English Comp. I course

## ◆ Format allows students to work on their own with help from others

By K. M. LAMONTAGNE  
Staff Reporter

Many students have a hard time trying to study, work, and enjoy time with family and friends. Comp I online may provide the answer.

It is a course offered at NECC and this is the third semester that it has run. It is taught by Suzanne Van Wert, professor of English and foreign languages.

In the on-line class, there is frequent discussion between stu-

dents and Van Wert. She also has designated chat times for any questions students have so they have instantaneous communication.

How does she know that the students are doing their work? They have class discussions about the assigned readings and the students also do an online critique.

Asked about the best thing about teaching a class online, Van Wert said, "It definitely keeps me from getting bored. Just when you thought there was nothing new in an English class, BAM! We're literally exploring uncharted territory in the field of education."

The class of 14 students started out with 21. The dropout rate may be caused by some students' lack of self-discipline. Procrastination catches up with them. Another factor that contributes to students

dropping the class is that they do not understand the equipment as well as they should.

Simon Gitau, a student who takes Comp 1 online, says the best thing about this course for him is, "I am able to study from the comfort of my own home. I have a very busy schedule, I work two part time jobs and I have two children. By taking the online course, I can hit two birds with one stone."

This course is hard work for Van Wert.

"It is an absolutely continuous course. I have no days off from this one, not Sundays, not holidays. There is just always something that needs to be written or read."

When considering the learning styles between a classroom setting and an online setting, Gitau said, "I think I am learning more. I have other classes and I don't spend as much time in them researching as I do for the online class. For the other classes I tend to overly rely on my teachers."

For those who have transportation trouble, or need to be at home with their children, this course can be beneficial and flexible.

"It can be the fourth course for students who need full-time status and a part-time student schedule," Van Wert said.

For those currently taking Comp I and did not know about the online course, don't fret because NECC will be offering Comp II online starting this spring. It will also be taught by Van Wert.

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# Counting Crows get ready to fly

◆ After a three year hiatus, they release third album

By ANDY WOOSTER  
Staff Reporter

Adam Durtiz's poetic style shines and the rest of his Counting Crows fly high on their newest release "This Desert Life." Lyrics to the song, "St. Robinson in his Cadillac Dream" are a perfect example of this form. However, when it comes to his band, feelings surrounding the release of the new album weren't of waiting... they were of anticipating.

The new album, "This Desert Life" refers to the flip side of living in L.A. and comes out amidst a plethora of expectations. Their two previous albums, 1993's "August and Everything After" and 1996's "Recovering the Satellites" sold in excess of three million copies each, not to mention, "Across a Live," a live album that went platinum.

High expectations ran rampant. "This Desert Life" lives up to, even exceeds those expectations. It has been hailed by critics as their creative zenith, like U2's "Joshua Tree."

Producers David Lowery (frontman of the band Cracker) and Dennis Herring have helped in crafting a sonic journey, filled with intensely personal, yet universal emotion. Feelings that everything is becoming blurred, that nothing is changing proliferate throughout.

As lines from, "Amy Hit the Atmosphere" go: "There has to be a change I'm sure/ Today was just a day fading into another/

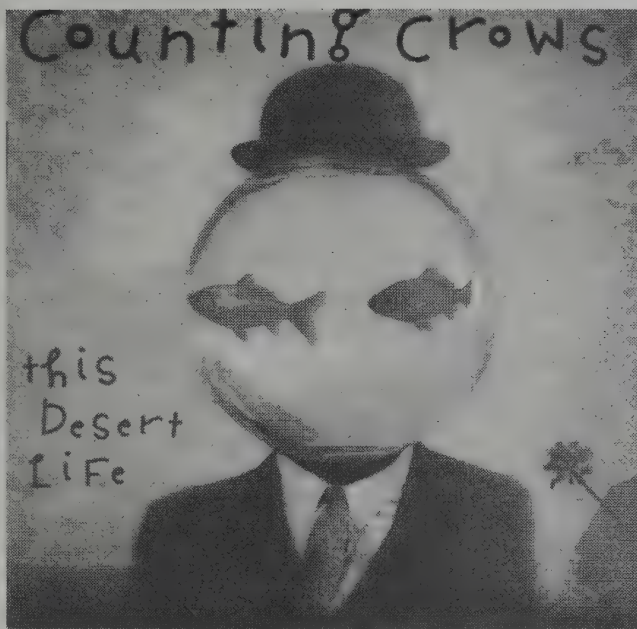
and that can't be what a life is for." We've all felt like that is happening to us once in a while.

The addition of long time Crows' friend, David Immergluck, extends the sound of the album. He lends his petal steel playing to the track, "Four Days" and his mandolin playing to the dreamlike, "I Wish I was a Girl." The song, a sequel to "Recovering the Satellites," "Goodnight Elizabeth" deals with how sex gets in the way of people trusting one another.

Durtiz explains the sound of the new album as more colorful with more texture. "My vocals are a little more up front. The vocals are in-your-face, and stark, with no reverb."

Up front vocals are clearly evident in the first single of the album, "Hanginaround," a song about Durtiz being in his twenties, out of college, and being a loser who got stoned too much. It's a song that once you hear it you can't get out of your head, much like their breakthrough hit, "Mr. Jones."

Other highlights of the album include the piano ballad "Colorblind," featured at the climax of the movie, "Cruel Intentions," and the seven-plus minute, "Mrs. Potter's



## MUSIC REVIEW

Lullaby," filled with Bob Dylan-esque lyrics like: "Well, there's a piece of Maria in every song that I sing/And the price of the memory is the memory of sorrow it brings."

Millions of fans have anticipated the release of this album. They won't be disappointed with this 10 track record with hypnotizing music and introspective lyrics. The more you listen the more you connect and the further the music takes you—it's a defining milestone in the timeline of Counting Crows. This is definitely an album you'll want to add to your collection.

## 'Pictures' challenges but rewards listeners

◆ Johnny Dowd's latest is marked with greatness, weirdness

By STEVE WINE  
Associated Press Writer

"Pictures From Life's Other Side" (Koch) — Johnny Dowd. Johnny Dowd could have been singing about himself on "Ballad of Lonnie Wolf": "He was playing ... a lonesome tune, drove everyone from the room."

"Pictures From Life's Other Side" isn't easily embraced. Dowd mutters and moans, mumbles and groans, then applies his off-key caterwaul to off-kilter lyrics. Accompaniment ranges from a noisy harp and druggy surf guitar to helicopter sounds on "Vietnam."

The result is a blend of Howlin' Wolf, Hank Williams, Captain Beefheart and Tom Waits, and on several songs the weirdness

## SOUND BITES

is just plain impenetrable.

Still, "Pictures" ranks with the year's best CDs, and the 16 lonesome tunes include many highlights:

"Ballad of Lonnie Wolf" is the dark tale of a man who hastily tries to kill himself and winds up a quadriplegic instead. Sings Dowd: "Oh Lonnie, you made a big mistake."

"Hope You Don't Mind" is sung by a stalker: "My love for you is not a whisper; my love is a scream."

"No Woman's Flesh But Hers" offers the chilling account of a man who was drunk and making love to his wife in their car when it crashed, leaving her in a coma.

And then there's "Mystery Woman," an ode to a topless dancer: "No, you're not beautiful, and the sky ain't blue. Who am I kidding? I'm desperately in love with you."

"Pictures From Life's Other Side" features the simplicity of the blues, the twang of country and the attitude of punk. Mix

them together, and the resulting music justifies the album title.

"Playing God" (Sliced Bread) — Bob Hillman

Singer-songwriter Bob Hillman's voice, arrangements and wry lyrics make "Playing God" sound a lot like a Jules Shear record.

That may be bad news for Hillman, because the talented Shear has spent most of his career in obscurity. But it's good news for listeners — this CD is full of fine songs.

Hillman plays folk-pop built on appealing melodies and interesting ideas. He sings with wit and wisdom about such topics as charlatans ("When I Wrote the Book"), revenge ("List of Enemies") and delusion (the title cut). Producer Tommy West, best known for his work with the late Jim Croce, tastefully tweaks the arrangements with an occasional cello, violin or pedal steel.

"Playing God" is the debut release from Hillman, who lives in New York and works by day helping high school students prepare for college-entrance exams. It's easy to root for a guy like that, especially when he sings such good songs.

## TOP MOVIES

1. "House on Haunted Hill"
2. "The Best Man"
3. "Double Jeopardy"
4. "American Beauty"
5. "Music of the Heart"
6. "Bringing Out the Dead"
7. "Fight Club"
8. "The Sixth Sense"
9. "The Story of Us"
10. "Three Kings"

## TOP MUSIC

### Singles

1. "Smooth," Santana (feat. Rob Thomas) (Gold)
2. "Satisfy You," Puff Daddy (feat. R. Kelly)
3. "Heartbreaker," Mariah Carey (feat. Jay-Z) (Gold)
4. "Mambo No. 5 (A Little Bit of Mambo)," Lou Bega.
5. "Unpretty," TLC. LaFace. (Gold)
6. "I Need To Know," Marc Anthony (Gold)
7. "My Love Is Your Love," Whitney Houston (Gold)
8. "Back At One," Brian McKnight
9. "We Can't Be Friends," Deborah Cox
10. "Steal My Sunshine," Len
11. "Someday," Sugar Ray.
12. "Scar Tissue," Red Hot Chili Peppers
13. "Music Of My Heart," 'N Sync & Gloria Estefan
14. "(You Drive Me) Crazy," Britney Spears
15. "Genie In A Bottle," Christina Aguilera (Platinum)
16. "Where my Girls At?," 702
17. "I Do (Cherish You)," 98 Degrees
18. "Get Gone," Ideal
19. "Waiting for Tonight," Jennifer Lopez
20. "U Know What's Up" Donel Jones

### Albums

1. "Supernatural," Santana. (Platinum)
2. "Millennium," Backstreet Boys (Platinum)
3. "Human Clay," Creed
4. "A Little Bit Of Mambo," Lou Bega. (Platinum)
5. "...Baby One More Time," Britney Spears (Platinum)
6. "Significant Other," Limp Bizkit. (Platinum)
7. "Devil Without A Cause," Kid Rock (Platinum)
8. "Christina Aguilera," Christina Aguilera (Platinum)
9. "400 Degreerz," Juvenile (Platinum)
10. "Back At One," Brian McKnight (Platinum)
11. "Fly," Dixie Chicks (Platinum)
12. "Let There Be... EVE—Ruff Ryders' first Lady," EVE. Ruff Ryder. (Platinum)
13. "Marc Anthony," Marc Anthony
14. "Enema Of The State," Blink 182 (Platinum)
15. "Blackout!," Method Man/Redman
16. "In...The Life Of Chris Gaines," Garth Brooks
17. "The Distance To Here," Live
18. "Come On Over," Shania Twain (Platinum)
19. "Ricky Martin," Ricky Martin
20. "Clapton Chronicles — The Best of Eric Clapton," Eric Clapton

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# Game boys make their own fun



◆ Local duo opens game room with old favorite, new hits

I was recently welcomed to the land of Yerubia, a land of knights, wizards, cannonballs and a dungeon master. The setting may sound familiar to you closet Dungeons and Dragons players – that's right, I said "D&D."

My only slight memories of the game involve kids in the computer lab in fourth grade who snuck in a game here and there. But low-profile games, both the computer and board kind, are still the apple of many eyes.

Two such fans are 23-year old John-Michael Gariepy and Dean Leveille, 19. They've opened their own late-night entertainment complex, Yerubian Knights, on Route 28 in Salem, N.H., where they also specialize in Axis and Allies, another war game of strategy, "Magic: The Gathering," with the medieval flair of Dungeons and Dragons, over 25 games on an eight computer network and more.

The pair is physically reminiscent of the two guys Ben Affleck meets in the diner in "Chasing Amy," who fit perfectly together as friends. They could also be dubbed beatniks in a sense for their uncommon interests and opinions of society.

Dungeons and Dragons, with its focus on feudalism, is not one of their favorite life-styles, but playing it became one. Playing the game cemented their friendship, as they met each other years ago through mutual friends and have been "campaigning" since, what Gariepy calls sessions of the medievally-themed role play game.

He often plays the dungeon master, a sort of referee, and says Dungeons can sharpen smarts as a cross between "Lord of the Rings" and something "much more debonair like 'Man in the Iron Mask.' It's a world within a world. It has a lot of intricate parts and can get very philosophical."

Hmm, a board game that isn't a blatant waste of time? I would say it's news to me, but I did a psychology report for Professor Jim Bradley last year and, low and behold, "Psychology Today" believes differently. Board games are valuable learning experiences for strengthening interpersonal communications skills and particularly for building friendships early on in life.

"They're very good for group activity and socialization," believes Gariepy. "There really can be an increased intellect. You have to learn the game, and there's concentration. People are also talking, or arguing, back and forth so it's communication and absorption."

He cites one game at Yerubian Knights in which players used philosophy and trigonometry to point a cannonball. Scientifically, it may be pointed out that games use both sides of the brain, one for logic, and one for the creative end. Playing a game is like enjoying a book, they say. "The story has a different plot each time, but the structural rules are always the same, like good diction and syntax."

The same goes for "Magic: The Gathering" a kind of card game like Pokemon for 15 to 25 year-olds, using, yet again, strategy and fantasy. Packaged like baseball cards, yet closely resembling those of the tarot variety, Magic is another underground wave that has been rising.

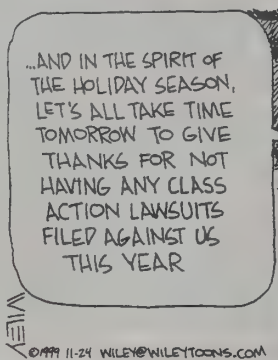
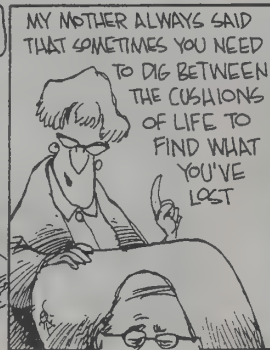
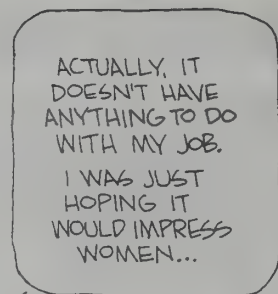
The pieces are cheaper than Pokemon, however, \$6 for a complete pack. Like all forms of card collecting there are also highly-coveted pieces. Attesting to the popularity of this relatively new hobby, are broadcast matches on ESPN2 and prizes for some competitions totally upwards of \$150,000.

As part of its mission to enlighten with games Yerubian Knights also holds tournaments (with prizes of free merchandise) and there are gatherings almost each night of the week for any customer who wants to get acquainted with games or people.

A quiet arcade setting is on the other side of the store. The computer network has headgear for each player to hear their own sounds and up to eight people can compete with each other in games like "Grand Theft Auto 2," "Jedi Knight" "Revolt" and "Warcraft." Prices are cheaper than an arcade, however, at \$3 per hour, or \$10 for four hours.

Yerubian Knights serves as a world of make-believe for adults, and also as a place for social gathering. It's a land where I felt welcome, and was intrigued with the prospect of a couple guys who set up a place to basically hang out and play. Unlike the sandbox, however, they are willing to share their "toys" and extend an invitation to all.

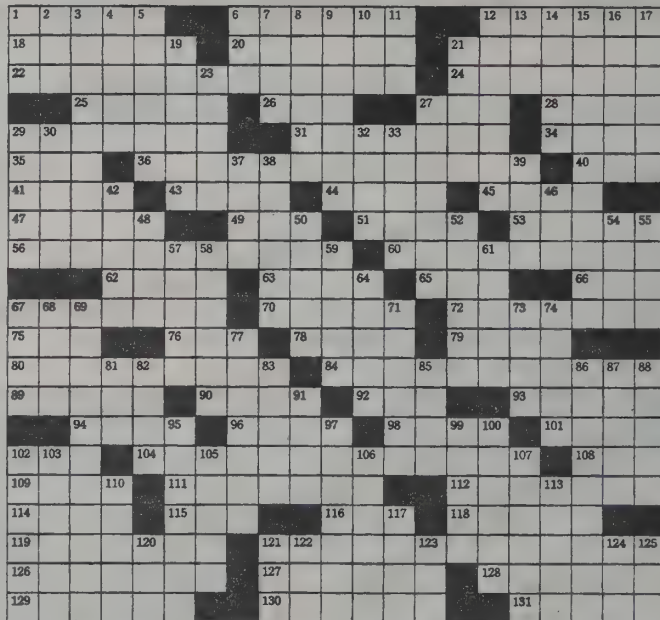
## Non-sequitur



## WASHINGTON POST MAGAZINE CROSSWORD: LET ME IN!

### ACROSS

- 1 Derby town
- 6 Place side by side
- 12 Type of radio show
- 18 Dialing device
- 20 Showed signs of spring
- 21 Indefinite pronoun
- 22 Guardians of eggs?
- 24 Pitches a tent, maybe
- 25 — donna
- 26 According to
- 27 Kind of burglar
- 28 Neither masc. nor fem.
- 29 Pun, often
- 31 Project
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- 35 Legal thing
- 36 Arcades?
- 40 Hush-hush govt. group
- 41 Sharp
- 43 Gp. with lofty goals
- 44 Kind of sch.
- 45 Jeanne —
- 47 Drang's partner
- 49 SE illuminator
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- 53 Ma's instrument
- 56 Grapefruit attire?
- 60 Chips and popcorn
- 62 Concession closer
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- 65 Orch. section
- 66 J. Alfred's creator
- 67 Credit (to)
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- 57 Go around in circles
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- 61 Churn supply
- 64 Suitable spot
- 67 Assists
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- 69 Concrete cautions?
- 71 Like some 20th-century music
- 73 Atlas stat
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- 83 Be in a bee
- 85 Salt, symbolically
- 86 Minuet and gavotte
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- 88 Gold unit
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- 95 More
- 97 "It'll never happen!"
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- 113 Cornmeal breads
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- 120 Enzyme suffix
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- 93 Physicist
- 94 Alessandro
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- 98 Pore over
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- 101 Smell
- 102 Liable
- 104 Unattractive gamblers?
- 108 Narc's employer
- 109 Author's enc.
- 111 Smotherses' 1968 presidential candidate
- 112 Overlook
- 114 Swallow
- 115 Spot on a domino

- 116 Volcanic output
- 118 Alexander's killer
- 119 Fix deeply
- 121 Alluring headwear?
- 126 Beginnings
- 127 Completely smashed
- 128 Dash gauge
- 129 Bird, at times
- 130 Felt
- 131 Southend-on-Sea's county

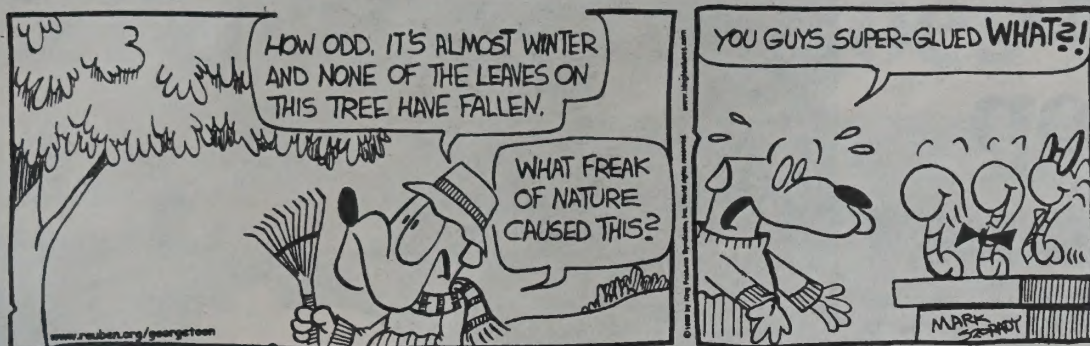
- 3 Conference
- 4 Bizet creation
- 5 Kind of call
- 6 Malt beverage
- 7 Slightest sound
- 8 Citizenship documents
- 9 Run
- 10 Sun. talk
- 11 Time VIPs
- 12 Vie
- 13 Memorable films cable sta.
- 14 Isn't quite erect
- 15 Rag made from Chinese noodles?
- 16 Enters
- 17 Summer quaff
- 19 Mortify

- 21 Defense org. until 1977
- 23 Destiny
- 27 Endangered crocs
- 29 Understanding
- 30 Right-hand page
- 32 Hill partner
- 33 Anatomical passages
- 37 Neh. follower
- 38 One who delivers
- 39 Fire
- 42 "... down the vast edges — ...": Arnold
- 46 Ring figure
- 48 Year in the Confessor's reign
- 50 Dangerous companion

See answers, next page

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### GEORGE by MARK SZORADY



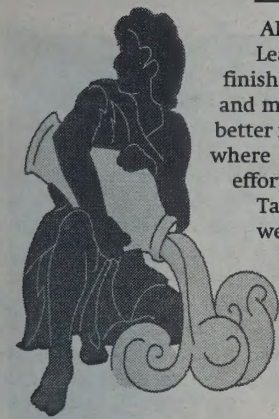
### MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT



### THE SPATS by JEFF PICKERING



### HOROSCOPES BY MISS ANNA



#### ARIES: (March 21-April 20)

Learn to recognize when you are finished with a particular venture and move on. Resolve to try and do better next time. Plan a family event where everyone participates, your efforts will be appreciated by all. Taking time for yourself this week will be important.

#### TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)

Love is overflowing. Either a current mate will rekindle your flame, or you may be introduced to a new and exciting love. Whichever occurs, you are now essentially

in a new relationship - for the rules have changed. A positive attitude will lift your spirits.

#### GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)

Opportunities abound for you. If the attitudes of those around you are holding you back, it's time to be a little bit more self-centered in order to move yourself closer to your goals. A new financial circumstance is very likely to present itself soon.

#### CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)

Don't try so hard to keep everyone in your small circle happy. Any attempts to patch up an old relationship which is on the rocks will be met with frustration. Work may be a welcome relief from the worries you can't seem to leave behind. Use your tact and charm.

#### LEO: (July 24 - Aug. 23)

It's time to act on the plan you have been formulating for improving your surroundings at home. Money will be tight, but cutting corners in other areas will make the project possible. You and your lifemate are on the exact same track.

#### VIRGO: (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)

Life is not without flaws, and the sooner you convince the perfectionist attitude in yourself, the happier you are going to be. There are some situations which will always be changing, and never perfect. Keep track of the difference between truth and illusion.

#### LIBRA: (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)

Your plans may go completely awry this week. Make the best of the situation and some good may come of it. Something very promising may come from a missed opportunity. It's hard for you to show your feelings, since they've been hurt so many times.

#### SCORPIO: (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Your hard work may not be noticed by others during the week. Make sure to satisfy yourself first, for you will never be able to count on others for your happiness. Be cautious about spending too much money. Try not to make hasty choices until you've thought further.

#### SAGITTARIUS: (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)

Get help with money matters, possibly bank statements and transactions. Your financial footing may be much more stable than even you expected. Investigate all financial tips before taking any actions. If it seems to good to be true, it probably is.

#### CAPRICORN: (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)

Learn from a friend this week - sometimes spontaneity is the best course of action. Don't be so quick to judge others, you truly do not know what motivates and influences others to do what they do. Take on the leadership role where money is concerned and use a firm hand.

#### AQUARIUS: (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)

Pay attention to your intuition, particularly where love and romance is concerned. You may feel yourself being drawn into a very unusual relationship, but one that will keep your interest for many years to come. Focus your energies on diffusing any anxieties you may feel.

#### PISCES: (Feb. 20 - March 20)

If you keep your feelings under wrap, it will create emotional upheavals, even though there is an illusion of control. It's OK to share your feelings with someone you care for. The feminine side of your nature is strongly present and it may make you feel a bit uncomfortable.

**IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY:** To make your relationships better, avoid pettiness in all its forms when interacting with those close to you. Make sure all communications are crystal clear to avoid blowups and confusion. Take note of any exceptional dreams and try to analyze anything symbolic.

### NECC ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

#### November

##### ✓ Latino Arts Month

Various locations

For more specific information or a calendar of events, contact Kathy Rodger at (978) 738-7401.

##### ✓ Art Exhibit

Lawrence atrium

As part of the Latino Arts Month festivities, Northern Essex will be featuring Latino artists from the Merrimack Valley. This is open to the public when the building is open.

Nov. 10

##### ✓ Winter Survival Kits

Lawrence atrium, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

##### ✓ Student Senate Meeting

Lawrence room 244, 3 to 5 p.m.

##### ✓ "El Norte" Spanish language movie

Lawrence extension campus, 7 to 9:30 p.m.

This is a story of a brother and sister who flee from their Guatemalan village to the "promised land" of California.

Nov. 11-13

##### ✓ "Harvey"

Top Notch Theater, third floor, Spurr building, 8 p.m.

NECC's Top Notch Players present the tale of a man and his imaginary rabbit friend. Tickets are \$4.

Nov. 15

##### ✓ How to Help a Friend Stop Smoking

Lawrence atrium, noon to 1 p.m.

This workshop, facilitated by Rob Parker, will help those who don't smoke learn some methods to help their friends quit smoking. Social support is one of the most important components to stop smoking.

Nov. 17

##### ✓ How to Help a Friend Stop Smoking

Student center theatre, Haverhill, noon to 1 p.m.

##### ✓ Student Senate Meeting

Student center theatre, Haverhill, 3 to 5 p.m.

##### ✓ "Mi Familia" Spanish language movie

Lawrence extension campus, 7 to 9:30 p.m.

Francis Ford Coppola produced this acclaimed saga detailing three generations in a Hispanic immigrant family, from their journey to California in the 1920s to their modern day struggles.

Nov. 18

##### ✓ Great American Smoke-Out

Lawrence atrium, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Nov. 19

##### ✓ An Evening of Poetry

Lawrence atrium, 7 to 11 p.m.

Keynote poets include Rhina Espaillat and Cesar Sanchez Beras as well as several emerging poets from the community and from Northern Essex Community College.

##### ✓ Gay/Lesbian Friday Film Series

Student center theatre, Haverhill, noon to 2 p.m.

Featured Film: "Philadelphia" starring Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington.

Dec. 1

##### ✓ World AIDS Day Celebration

Lawrence atrium, noon to 1 p.m.

Light a candle in remembrance of the victims of AIDS and pick up some information on HIV, testing sites and confidential sources for referral/treatment.

##### ✓ Seasonal Celebration

Student center lounge, Haverhill, 3 to 5 p.m.

Dec. 6

##### ✓ Seasonal Celebration

Lawrence atrium, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

##### ✓ Inter-club Council Meeting

Student center theatre, Haverhill, 3 to 5 p.m.

Dec. 8

##### ✓ Stress Kits

Lawrence atrium, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

### CROSSWORD ANSWERS

|             |                |         |
|-------------|----------------|---------|
| EPSOM       | APPOSE         | CALLIN  |
| KEYPAD      | LEAPED         | SOMEONE |
| GAMETERE    | PEPERS         | ENCAMPS |
| PRIMA       | PER            | CAT     |
| HEUT        |                |         |
| GROANER     | RADIATE        | SITE    |
| RES         | GAMESSTATIONS  | NSA     |
| ACID        | NASA           | ELEM    |
| DARC        |                |         |
| STURN       | TVA            | ERAT    |
| CELLO       |                |         |
| POMELOSHIRT | SPACKFOOD      |         |
| AIRE        | OMAN           | STR     |
| TSE         |                |         |
| ASCRIBE     | REGIA          | TEETHES |
| ILE         | INS            | DUCT    |
| LALA        |                |         |
| DOMESTICS   | PHONEMEBOOK    |         |
| STELE       | NAPS           | ENA     |
| VOLTA       |                |         |
| NITS        | READ           | ACDC    |
| ODOR        |                |         |
| APT         | HOMELYROLLERS  | DEA     |
| SASE        | PAULSEN        | GOTPAST |
| SWIG        | PDP            | ASH     |
| AARON       |                |         |
| INCRAIN     | COMEONSEKINCAP |         |
| GENESES     | BLOTTO         | SPEEDO  |
| NESTER      | SENSED         | ESSEX   |

# Pushing their way to the top

◆ Alumni, members of Still Point grace the stage with a new company

By CARLEY THORNELL

Arts Editor

Jacqui Young wants to make dance enjoyable for everyone, so she found something anyone can relate to — moods. Her company, Push Factor, performed "Moods: The Beautiful People" last weekend publicly for the first time. The group includes graduates and current students in NECC's dance program from which Young herself graduated.

Unlike Still Point, the college's dance company, Push Factor uses all contemporary songs, like "The Beautiful People" by Marilyn Manson a tune from Matchbox 20, Haverhill's own Rob Zombie, Ricky Martin and Enrique Iglesias to express different emotions, like fear, confusion, passion and lust.

"We want to tap into the average person. We think this appeals to someone off the street who wouldn't go and see a dance company," because of the ballet stereotype, Young said.

And though group members have a ballet background, they're also skilled in several other arenas, like jazz and tap. Their blend of styles and neoteric design is comparable to the swinging motions in the ear and eye-delighting "Stomp," and dancer Cheryl DeFrancesco wears that company on her practice T-shirt.

Push Factor is fresh, pushing the limits with a smattering of traditional graceful moves, frantic lifts and nuance, as in the Matchbox 20 quartet "Back To Good" in which the dancer's romantic interests demonstrate the emotion of confusion: NECC student Manny Reynoso is left alone when the girls decide they'd rather have each other.

## DANCE PROFILE

He remains sitting pensively sad at the end of the number, while the audience is feeling its own emotion of confusion and then surprise, for it seemed the girls were dueling banjos competing for Reynoso's affection, gaining each other's in the end.

That number also includes Annette Catapano, a Connecticut native who graduated from NECC's dance program in the spring. Though she'd eventually like to open her own studio, Catapano stayed local to gain professional experience with Push Factor and choreographing for "Fiddler on the Roof."

That production by Haverhill's Pentucket Players theater troupe will be performed this weekend. The group is entering its seventh season and has gained a favorable reputation during its tenure.

DeFrancesco is the oldest member of Push Factor at 28, though she says factoring everyone's ages wasn't part of the concept. She works full-time, like several of the other dancers, and enjoys dance for the exercise and the fun of it.

"I danced since I was three, but got out of it after college. Now I'm back after meeting Jacqui through my sister and I love it," she said.

At the other side of the age gambit is 17-year-old Jessica Murray, who's been dancing since age 2. A varsity field hockey player at Pelham High, she also dances on the competition and cruise ship team at Dance Concepts.

Murray's resume is sure to read much like that of Jessica Santos in a few years. Santos is still a dance student at NECC and has also danced since age two. She's performed with the Nutcracker Moscow Ballet, the International Festival at Epcott Center, the Boston Children's Museum and "The Lion King" on a Disney yacht, to name a few.

"We all do other things, but we call this real competition. It's wild and crazy. It's more adult, it's professional, but it is entertaining," Santos said.

The group was competing with itself to see if they could pull it off after eight months of work. In between the full-time jobs and school for most, they somehow fit in three fatiguing hours of dance three nights a week.

Reynoso dropped Santos during one move, requiring her to get five stitches in her chin, but they still shared the laughs and joy of the group over bowls of Halloween candy serving as a "campfire." A sign posted on the door advertised for the performing school students to wear costumes to class, and though the adults didn't take heed, they had their trick or treat fun nonetheless.

NECC's Rachel Houle, who also instructs toddlers in the art of dance, enjoys the adult conversation at night time Push Factor rehearsals. Reynoso is the only male member of the group, is still a student, and says he's having "the time of my life."

All have performed with the college's dance company, Still Point, where Young got much of her encouragement to continue in the field from Professor Elaine Mawhinney. While still in the Boston area she danced with Janet Jackson's choreographer, Carlton Jones, and moved on to several other professional gigs in Las Vegas,



Carley Thornell photo

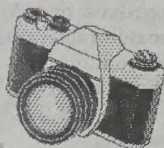
MISSING YOU: Manny Reynoso and Cheryl DeFrancesco practice their dance to Matchbox 20's "Back to Good."



Carley Thornell photo

ARMS AWAY: Practicing a group routine are Annette Catapano, left foreground, and Jessica Santos right foreground; second row, from left, Cheryl DeFrancesco, Jessica Murray and Rachel Houle; and back, Manny Reynoso.

## Haverhill Photo



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Missouri, and choreographed for TNN and the Americana Network.

Young has been networking on the local circuit for a few years now, trying to build her business and a talented base of dancers to fulfill her dream. She owns two successful dance schools, totally separate from Push Factor. Last week's performance ce-

mented the third project, it also sealed friendships and a long-awaited goal.

"I've always had a dream my whole life to one day have my own company," she said.

And now it's possible thanks to what she and the other members of the group learned at NECC.

# Baseball team goes 6-0

◆ *Scott Power and his Knights bring back the easy wins for NECC*

By NATHAN SCOTT  
Sports Editor

The song "I've Got the Power" by Snap is good to listen to if you need to get your adrenaline pumping. It doesn't hurt hearing from baseball coach Scott Power either.

Power's Knights listened to their new coach this fall and went 6-0. They dominated every team they played and are now raising money for a tournament in Florida this spring.

The 10-game tournament will be held in Cocoa, Fla. at Cocoa Expo Sports Center March 11-18.

Overall, Knights baseball players didn't commit any serious mistakes this season. They committed few errors. According to Power, every team member was giving "good production," and putting forth enough effort to keep the team balanced.

"Depth could be a strong point this season as long as we keep the same squad," Power said. "I was really impressed with our ability to play at a higher level when the opposition was not."

Standouts for the Knights include pitcher Kevin Teague, who threw the ball with "power and promise." He had an E.R.A. of 0.00 in nine innings over two games.

"Returner Danny Halligan proved he will battle all year both as a starting pitcher and outfielder," Power said. "We also swing the bats surprisingly well up and down the lineup."

"Second baseman Luciano Blanco and



David Cousins photo

**READY FOR SPRING:** Coach Power observes his undefeated baseball team. Look for several fundraising events to enable the players to travel to Florida for a few games next semester.

Henry Nunez set the table by getting on base consistently. Mike Todd, center Mike Patenande, and Mike Gallant were excellent run producers."

Todd, a transfer from Bryant College, brings maturity to the Knight's young infield through his position of shortstop. According to the coach, it's time for his players to "hit the books" and make sure they are eligible for spring play—far more important than the fall season.

"We certainly have a long way to go before we are ready for our actual spring season. We did have a good beginning, and

it was nice to finish with the taste of victory in our mouths," Power said.

In the coming months, as the team raises money for its Florida trip, here are some dates to remember:

- Nov. 29: Papa Gino's Fundraiser (4:30-9:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 11: NECC pitching clinic
- Feb. 12: skill development clinics
- Feb. 19: skill development clinics

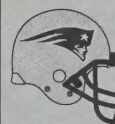
All four dates will generate money for the Florida trip. With a little financial help from their fans, the 6-0 Knights will challenge the best in the tourney.



NATHAN SCOTT

## The Super Sideline

◆ *The 'Double Ds' almost hand the Patriots two hard losses*



The Dolphins shouldn't have won—but as is the case in the NFL this season, nothing is predictable.

Whether it's the St. Louis Rams so close to a perfect season, the Denver Broncos and Atlanta Falcons at the bottom of their divisions, or the Lions atop the NFC without Barry Sanders, the NFL has proved a place where anything can happen, and does.

Who would've thought that with Dan Marino out with shoulder spasms, and interceptions by Andy Katzenmoyer and Ty Law returned for touchdowns early in the first quarter, that the Patriots could lose?

Despite sacking Miami's backup quarterback Damon Huard nine times, the Patriots allowed a Miami team they had dominated the entire game to score a touchdown with 23 seconds left in the game.

Frustration over the loss turned to anger as the Pats were booed into their locker room.

Patriot's cornerback Ty Law was straightforward when asked about the quite unexpected performance of Damon Huard.

"He was good. Good for their team, bad for our team."

The recent win against Arizona was almost as simple as this statement—let's just hope it continues.

The idea of hopping on a three game losing streak didn't appeal to the Patriots when they faced Denver at Foxboro.

It was another nail-biter. Bronco kicker Jason Elam tried a 59-yard field-goal attempt late in the fourth that would've ended the game, but he missed and it ended in favor of the Patriots.

Patriots' running back Terry Allen, a preseason acquisition from the Washington Redskins, had his first 100-yard game this season.

Rookie Running back Kevin Faulk also had a first quarter touchdown. Lawyer Milloy stepped up for the Pats with 14 furious tackles.

Drew Bledsoe summed up the victory better than anyone: "You hate to say it's a must win game this early in the season, but this game was very important to us."

When you look at the Patriots' win totals against the Broncos, it's not hard to see why.

"After losing two close and emotional games the past two weeks, it was a big victory for us," Bledsoe said.

The Patriots were as wide open as the desert sky in the win against Arizona. We'll look at this victory and preview the victory-to-be when the Pats face the New York Jets on ABC's Monday Night Football.

I don't know about you, but I'm stocking up on some StarKist tuna. If you eat too much it's bad for you (excess protein can damage the liver).

However, just the right amount is a low-fat nutritious snack—and that's just what the Jets will be.

Contact Nathan Scott  
by email at: nhsx@hotmail.com

# 'Rumble in the Jungle' a great fight

◆ *Ali cements his fame in Greatest Moment #4*

By DAVID COUSINS  
Photography Editor

Muhammad Ali proclaimed himself the all-time best in a recent NewsWeek cover. However, the present-day Ali, 57, is facing his biggest fight of his life with Parkinson's syndrome.

The 25th Anniversary of Muhammad Ali's win over George Foreman in Zaire — "The Rumble in the Jungle" — was Oct. 30. Ali showed up recently at the White House with B.B. King and Eric Clapton for a VH-1 concert hosted by President Clinton. He was in the audience when his daughter Laila knocked out April Fowler 31 seconds into her professional boxing debut.

George Foreman, too, is larger than life. Foreman, 50, is commercially hot. There are those Meineke Muffler advertisements, the namesake grill that has sold millions of units; dozens of kitchen products, a cookbook and an animated television show.

It has been 25 years since Ali and Foreman created one of the great spectacles of sport under an African moon in Kinshasa, Zaire.

Ali scored one of boxing's most magnificent upsets, crafting a brilliant strategy against the younger, stronger world heavyweight champion.

In a first-person account in Newsweek, Ali said the 1975 "Thrilla in Manila" victory

over Joe Frazier was his greatest fight ever.

"The Rumble in the Jungle was a fight that made the whole country more conscious," Ali writes. "I wanted to establish a relationship between American blacks and Africans."

"All the time I was there, I'd travel to the jungles, places where there was no radio or television, and people would come up to me, and I could touch them. The fight was about racial problems, Vietnam. All of that."

Foreman, at 25, precisely half his present age, did not have Ali's global view. "You just want to destroy everything that gets in your way," he said. "I may have lost that fight, but I learned a lot from it."

Even in Foreman's world of sweetness and hype, that is a grand understatement. Almost exactly 20 years after Ali stood flat-footed against the rings and let Foreman punch himself out, Foreman knocked out a younger Michael Moorer to regain the championship he had lost to Ali, a record 20 years in between titles.

It was promoter Don King, the former numbers runner from Cleveland, who created "The Rumble in the Jungle" tag.

"From the Slave Ship to the Champion-ship!" Don King said.

The fight Doctor Freddie Pacheco, a fixture in Ali's corner over the years, is a busy man. He has been getting a lot of calls lately about "The Rumble in the Jungle." He probably has a right to be cranky.

"Aw, let's go," he says in published reports. "What do you need?"

Pacheco places the "Africa fight" well

below the "Thrilla in Manila," and on par with the first Sonny Liston fight.

"The Liston fight was important because if he had quit in that fourth round, not being able to see anything, there never would have been a Muhammad Ali. He would have stayed Cassius Clay," Pacheco says.

Today, both fighters remain huge figures. Who would have thought that could happen? Indeed, Foreman, the brooding champion, has become a genial giant of a pitcher. Going to school not only on Ali's ring strategy, but his personal style.

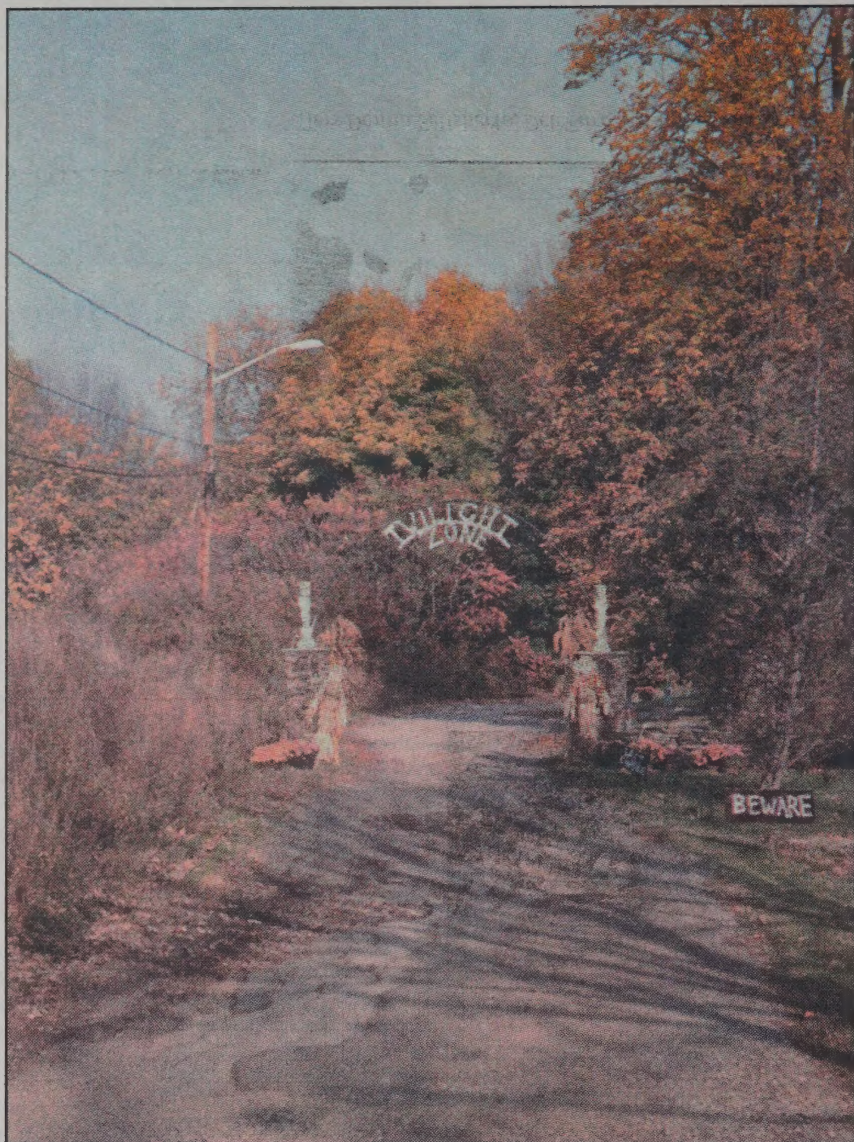
"The remarkable thing about George Foreman was the way he changed. He came back worldly after becoming a preacher and meeting all those people. He became a hell of a spokesman for the human race." Said Henry Holmes,

Twenty years after "The Rumble in the Jungle," he was in Foreman's corner when he regained the title with a 10th-round knockout over Moorer.

It is ironic, too, that while Foreman's charisma continues in steep ascent, Ali's traces a curve in the opposite direction. His once-magnificent body, left too long in the ring, has betrayed him. His mind is still sharp but after 61 fights, but he shuffles and speaks in a slurred whisper.

There are still times, however, when he is Muhammad Ali again, and his eyes dance as brightly as the Olympic torch he lit in Atlanta in 1996.

It was, in terms of drama and his unique style of sweetness, Ali's finest moment.



# Spooky happenings

◆ The former Atwood Farm on Elliott Street dresses up for Halloween with an array of frightening props and special effects design to scare the life out of you



Luke Perkins photos  
**WALK THIS WAY TO HORROR:** A gateway titled "Twilight Zone" beckons brave souls to proceed to such sights as a shallow grave, right.



JUST HANGING AROUND: Skeletons and coffins adorn the Atwood Farm. Luke Perkins photos

## A devil of a party...

As the clock struck 12 all the ghosts and goblins made their way to the NECC student center lounge for the NECC Halloween costume party.

The decorations and music helped set the mood for anyone who was willing to do "the time warp again" to campus and have fun with the Halloween happenings.

Among the party highlights were prizes for best costume and psychic readings with tarot cards and palm readings.

Food services supplied donuts, witches brew soup, fruits, candy and Halloween nachos.

Student activities Coordinator Dina Brown said last year 50 to 75 students attended last year's party and she was ex-

pecting about the same amount this year.

The judges asked to choose the best costumes were Rob Parker, Deb Fowler-Claire and Brown.

The top prize for best costume was awarded to Jane Bazzinotti for her "lifeguard" costume. Second third and fourth prizes were awarded to Beth Ann Parmenter, Christina Ingham and Siobhan Murphy for their "Dorothy," "Glinda," and "Stevie Wonder" respectively.

The psychic readings were a popular attraction at this year's party. Children on hand loved the food and drinks.

This killer party wasn't a nightmare, but it was a scream for everyone who went.

Bob Archer



Corrine Murphy photo  
**HALLOWEEN SMILES:** Staffers Donna Felisberto, Deb Turcotte and Dina Brown wait for the party to begin.